

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 MARCH 1982

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi's Austrian Visit -- Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi returned home from Austria on 13 March, stopping-over in Valletta for talks with Maltese leaders, JANA reported. After arriving in Tripoli, Al-Qadhdhafi described his trip to Austria as "extremely positive" and said he hopes to hold similar meetings with other Western leaders, JANA noted. He added that he does not dismiss the idea of such a trip to the United States. However, in a speech to an 11 March dinner banquet held in his honor by Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, Al-Qadhdhafi excoriated the U.S. administration, accusing it of suffering from "megalomania" and practicing "terrorism," JANA reported.

Tripoli radio broadcast a Libyan-Austrian joint statement issued at the conclusion of Al-Qadhdhafi's visit when noted that the two sides had discussed the widening of bilateral economic relations. Topics covered in Al-Qadhdhafi's talks with Kreisky included the Palestine question and the "democratization" of the United Nations, the statement said. Vienna television broadcast an interview with Al-Qadhdhafi in which the Libyan leader said that if his country is the victim of U.S. aggression, it will not hesitate to ask for Soviet help. Commenting on the motives for Al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Austria, Chancellor Kreisky said he had been informed by the Libyan leader of the latter's fears about a U.S. military operations against Libya, the Vienna paper KRONEN-ZEITUNG reported. According to Vienna radio, Kreisky said that while he had disagreed with Al-Qadhdhafi about how to achieve a solution to the Palestine problem, Al-Qadhdhafi had affirmed that if the PLO ever reached an understanding with Israel, Libya will not torpedo it. Reporting on the Libyan-Austrian economic talks, the radio broadcast remarks by the director general of the Voest Alpine Corporation asserting that Voest is willing to buy Libyan oil and sell it to third countries and to conclude new export deals with Libya, provided world market prices govern these transactions.

JANA's political analyst described the U.S. expression of concern to Austria over Al-Qadhdhafi's visit as a "blatant and crude interference" in the affairs of an independent country, Tripoli radio reported.

Libyan Opposition -- Riyadh radio reported that the opposition Libyan National Democratic Rally issued a statement in London denouncing Al-Qadhdhafi's regime and describing his call for a dialogue with Libyans abroad as a propaganda attempt to improve his public image. The radio also cited a Libyan opposition leader as telling AR-RIYAD that Al-Qadhdhafi's intelligence agents are attempting to hunt down and capture members of the opposition.

Relations With Saudi Arabia -- A 13 March JANA commentary attacked the Saudi rulers for their endorsement of the U.S. ban on Libyan oil imports. The Saudi people suffer from repression and humiliation while their rulers indulge themselves with harems and concubines, denying the people everything and denying America nothing, JANA said. Earlier, the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA' noted that a Libyan diplomat had arrived in Jidda to open the People's Bureau in Saudi Arabia.

Lebanon

Klibi Visit -- Arriving in Lebanon on 12 March, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio that he had come to confer with government officials about the Arab Followup Committee and the Arab League's minicommitttee on southern Lebanon. After meeting with President Ilyas Sarkis and other senior Lebanese officials the following day, Klibi told a press conference that he seeks to convene a new Followup Committee meeting in mid-April or earlier, Beirut radio reported. Klibi also said the minicommitttee on the south will meet on 18 March as scheduled and the Lebanese Government will form the authority to supervise the Lebanese coast.

French Ambassador's Warning -- According to Beirut radio, the French ambassador told MONDAY MORNING that any Israeli attack on southern Lebanon would be considered an attack on France.

Jordanian, Kuwaiti Diplomats -- Jordan has recalled its attache at the Jordanian Embassy to safeguard his personal security, AFP reported. According to Voice of Lebanon radio, Jordan has also closed PETRA - JNA's offices in Beirut and will shortly halt its airline flights to that city. Meanwhile, KUNA cited a Kuwaiti official spokesman as saying that although the Kuwaiti ambassador had returned to Kuwait following rumors of threats against his person, the Kuwaiti Embassy in Beirut is still operating.

Security Situation -- Voice of Lebanon radio reported on 15 March that Israeli armored cars had entered southern Lebanon and taken up combat positions. Earlier, a Palestinian military spokesman issued a statement broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio denying Israeli reports that the Syrians have established an observation post in Beaufort Castle and affirming that UNIFIL will establish a post there. KUNA reported that its correspondent paid an unscheduled visit to the castle, meeting a dozen Palestinian guerrillas and no Syrians.

The Voice of Palestine claimed that the IDF violated the cease-fire 196 times between 1 August 1981 and 1 March 1982. Meanwhile, Maj Sa'd Haddad contended that the PLO may possess helicopters and that it has paid money to UNIFIL's Senagalese troops, according to the Jerusalem POST.

Beirut radio noted that Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces have withdrawn from the northern port of Tripoli, allowing public security forces to replace them.

Syria

Al-Asad Warning, Meeting With Kutakhov -- President Hafiz al-Asad told British television on 12 March that a new Israeli invasion of Lebanon will mean war with Syria, Monte Carlo radio reported. Al-Asad and the Syrian Air Force and Air Defense commander met on the same day with visiting Soviet Air Force Commander Marshal Pavel Stepanovich Kutakhov, according to Damascus television. Kutakhov inspected a Syrian airbase during his 4-day visit, Monte Carlo radio noted.

Hamah Gunfire -- Voice of Lebanon radio reported on 12 March that gunfire could still be heard in Hamah, where rescue teams have now uncovered 2,000 bodies from the rubble caused by the recent fighting.

Israel

Cabinet Meeting, MA'ARIV Article -- Prime Minister Menahem Begin said at a 14 March Cabinet session that a recent attempt to attack the kindergarten in Holon is part of the chain of terrorist activities, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio stressed Jerusalem's concern about continued terrorist activity and cited Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's view that U.S. envoy Philip Habib's tours have harmed Israel by creating expectations and binding its hands in defending the lives of its citizens.

Sharon opined to his Cabinet colleagues after Habib's recent visit that the Americans appear ready to sacrifice Lebanon's independence for the sake of an attempt to draw Syria to the U.S. side, and that U.S. opposition to Israeli action against the terrorists is due to fear that nearby Syrian forces will also get hit, MA'ARIV reported. Sharon holds that Israel made an erroneous assessment when it agreed to U.S.-proposed procedures for removing the Syrian missiles from the Al-Biqa' Valley, the paper said.

According to the same article Habib told Israeli leaders that he made Syria, Saudi Arabia and, indirectly, the PLO understand that the cease fire is not confined to the Lebanese-Israeli border.

U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis conveyed to Begin a pledge from Secretary of State Alexander Haig that the United States would no longer resort to punitive measures in dealing with Israel, MA'ARIV revealed.

Village Leagues -- At a meeting with Begin, Head of the Hebron District Village Mustafa Dudin said the leagues' support among the rural population is larger than the public is aware of, a Government Press Office release carried by ITIM reported. In an interview broadcast by Jerusalem radio's Arabic service, Dudin said Begin promised to increase budgetary allocations for the leagues' projects.

Jerusalem radio reported an assassination attempt against the head of one village league and the withdrawal of a village council member from the league. However, the manifesto of a village league rally in Bethlehem said Jordan does not represent the Palestinians and condemned violence toward village league members. Meanwhile, the Jordanian paper AD-DUSTUR denounced the leagues as a tool of Israeli policy and warned that Israeli protection will not save their members from punishment.

West Bank Disturbances -- Police detained about 30 persons in a refugee camp near Ramallah following repeated disturbances in which Israeli vehicles were stoned, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, the Voice of Palestine called on Palestinians under Israeli rule to adopt a still firmer stand against the occupation.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak said in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASH that while he intends to visit Israel, it is inconceivable for him to visit Jerusalem, MENA reported. He also said the rules of protocol do not provide for any state to impose itineraries on a visiting head of state. Regarding the fate of the assassins of Anwar as-Sadat, he stated he did not interfere in their trial and has left justice to take its course. Asked about the Iran-Iraq war, Mubarak said Egypt's sentiments are with Iraq, although it wants an end to the bloodshed. AFP cited an AL-AHRAM report that Mubarak also said Egypt will not hesitate to aid Iraq.

In a 12 March commentary, the Israeli daily MA'ARIV said that during Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Egypt, Mubarak told Shamir that his unwillingness to go to Jerusalem was not caused by fear of reaction from the Arab world outside Egypt but was occasioned by what the Muslim fundamentalists inside Egypt might say and do. Mubarak said he was going to approve the death sentence passed on As-Sadat's assassins, according to MA'ARIV.

Gulf Affairs

Bahrain Saboteurs' Trial -- The trial of 73 defendants accused of involvement in the sabotage plot began in Manama on 13 March, WAKH reported.

GCC Defense Ministers Meeting -- Gulf Cooperation Council chiefs of staff arrived in Riyadh on 14 March to attend their meeting the following day, SPA reported.

Iran

Relations With Syria -- A large Syrian delegation led by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Tehran on 13 March, Tehran radio reported. After a meeting with President 'Ali Khamene'i, Khaddam said he had given the Iranian president a message from President al-Asad dealing with the need to consolidate the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist front, SANA noted. Tehran radio subsequently said the Syrian and Iranian oil ministers reached preliminary agreements for Iran to sell oil to Syria and for the latter to sell phosphates to Iran.

Security Situation -- Terrorists dressed as revolution guards and religious scholars assassinated a reconstruction crusade theologian and two revolution guards in central Tehran on 14 March, IRNA reported. The previous day, the director of a Shiraz education department was wounded by assassins, according to Shiraz radio.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Khamene'i Message to Sekou Toure -- Tehran radio broadcast a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to the chairman of the Islamic Conference Good Offices Committee, Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure, that restated Iran's three conditions for ending the war: unconditional withdrawal of aggressive forces, payment of compensation and punishment of the aggressor. Another natural and obvious condition, the message said, is the return of over 100,000 Iraqi refugees to their homes. Asserting that Iran wants a just and genuine peace, Khamene'i declared his readiness to continue peace negotiations and expressed respect for the efforts of the Good Offices Committee. However, the committee's recent visit to Iraq demonstrated that the Iraqi regime is not interested in establishing a genuine peace, Khamene'i contended. He accused Iraq of proposing unacceptable conditions and creating obstacles for propaganda reasons.

Military Situation -- The Iranian Air Force bombed Iraqi positions near the Chazzabeh Gorge and on the 'Eyn Khosh front on 13 March, according to an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. On the same day, Iraqi planes attacked Iranian targets in Khorramabad, north of Dezful, an Iraqi communique carried by INA reported.

Visits of Families of POW's -- Iran has submitted a 19-point plan to the International Red Cross outlining the Iranian proposals for the exchange of families of POW's, IRNA reported. The plan stipulates that Iran will grant entry permits to 200 families of Iraqi POW's per week.

Afghanistan

Babrak Karmal, PDPA Central Committee general secretary, read the PDPA Central Committee's draft program at the party's national conference, Kabul radio reported. According to the radio, the PDPA document maintains that imperialism and reaction have instigated a fratricidal war in Afghanistan in order to restore the rule of feudal exploiters. Enemy interference in the country's internal affairs has slowed down socioeconomic changes and real problems exist in industry, agriculture, social affairs and transportation. The PDPA needs dedicated work and unity of party ranks in order to carry out its revolutionary duties. At present the party is strong and fully united, but disunity would weaken the party and even endanger its existence. The PDPA report also stresses that the country's sovereignty, independence and progress can be achieved only through strengthening friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Pakistan

Police used tear gas to disperse a 14 March political meeting in Peshawar and arrested 38 people, according to Karachi radio. AFP said the rally was held to mourn the assassinated former provincial governor, Sikandar Khan Khalil. Delhi radio linked the rally with a wave of student unrest that has swept Pakistan and forced the authorities to close several universities. Earlier, Karachi radio reported that a student was killed during a clash at a Rawalpindi college. It also noted that police have arrested 75 "antisocial elements."

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DAILY REPORT

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PLO ISSUES STATEMENT ON PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

NC140834 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee on 13 March]

[Text] The occupied homeland is currently witnessing a comprehensive and glorious confrontation being carried out by all the segments of our Palestinian people, who are standing fast on the soil of their homeland and who are struggling with persistence and courage to remove the nightmare of the hated Zionist racist occupation and thwart all its conspiratorial schemes, above all the autonomy plan and the Camp David plot.

The occupation authorities have resorted to all methods of suppression and persecution to strike at the movement of the heroic Palestinian masses and contain the escalation of their courageous upheaval. Within this context, the occupation authorities have expropriated lands and have carried out plans to Judaize and infringe on holy places in Jerusalem, Hebron and Jaffa. They have carried out arrests and opened fire on our angry masses. They have closed the B'ir Zayt University and dissolved the National Guidance Committee. Moreover, the occupation authorities are daily carrying out suppressive activities which reflect the Zionist expansionist and colonial policy against our people, their rights and their daily and public interests.

Despite the ferocity of the Zionist suppression, our heroic people, under their national and popular leaders in all the occupied homeland, have confronted and will continue to confront this hated Zionist racism and its schemes and plots, affirming their adherence to the dear soil of their homeland and their commitment to the PLO and its national program with all strength, courage and nobility. Our people are daily carrying out relentless and unceasing struggle, upholding the political program approved by our national council -- a program which affirms our national and inalienable rights, including our right to return, to self-determination and to establish our independent national state on our Palestinian national soil. All the people will continue to struggle within the framework of the PLO until they achieve this great national objective.

The recent decisions and measures taken by the occupation authorities in a desperate attempt to strike at our people's resistance of occupation are part of an overall Zionist-imperialist plot, part of which is visible in steadfast and heroic southern Lebanon, to besiege the Palestinian national struggle, strike at its armed force, and open the road to U.S.-imposed surrender.

Therefore, the PLO Executive Committee urges our heroic Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland and all their institutions and national figures to adopt a still firmer stand against the occupation, its conspirational plans and its desperate suppressive measures. We are confident that our sacrificing people inside and outside the occupied homeland will cross all barriers and will surmount all obstacles that the enemies are placing in the way of their ever advancing struggle. We are also confident that our people, with their firm national unity and support for the PLO leadership and through their wonderful steadfastness on the soil of their homeland and the struggle of their fighters, will impose their will over the will of the occupation authorities and will achieve their national objectives despite all the obstacles. It is a revolution until victory.

PLO: UNRWA DEFICIT 'DELIBERATELY CREATED'

JN131639 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] The PLO today affirmed that the financial deficit the Palestinian refugees agency, UNRWA, is facing has been deliberately created and has political ramifications aimed against the Palestinian cause.

In a communique issued by the PLO Refugees Affairs Department at the current United Nations General Assembly session, devoted to studying UNRWA's financial deficit, the PLO stated that these political considerations had had an adverse impact on the agency's ability to provide the bare minimum of essential services to Palestinian refugees. The communique added that these political factors have the aim of exempting the international community from its responsibilities for providing for these refugees. The PLO stressed that the international community as represented by UNRWA bears full responsibility for the (?increase in) budget deficit.

FATAH'S SALAH KHALAF OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ARAB UNITY

PM150835 Paris LE MATIN in French 9 Mar 82 p 6

[Jacques de Vernisy interview in Beirut with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, identified as Abu Iyad -- date not given]

[Text] LE MATIN: Now, 3 days after the end of Francois Mitterrand's visit to Israel, is the PLO's assessment of it less critical, on reflection?

Abu Iyad: Our stance has not changed at all. We believe Mitterrand was very biased and that he quite simply aligned himself with the United States. Moreover, the French president visited Jerusalem, thus implicitly recognizing that city as the capital of Israel. In fact, his visit was a kind of blessing of Israel's stances, which is strange, because the Jewish state has recently defied French policy a number of times. I am thinking in particular of the destruction of the Tammuz reactor in Iraq.

LE MATIN: Mitterrand did nevertheless plead for a Palestinian state, did he not?

Abu Iyad: Mitterrand did not mention the Palestinian people's rights. And he referred to the PLO as an organization of fighters, which belittles our organization's representativeness. When he spoke of a Palestinian state he mentioned the West Bank and Gaza, in other words, a state for Palestinians residing within the occupied territories. I believe that his policy is just like the policy adopted after Camp David. Like As-Sadat, Mitterrand has given Israel everything without receiving anything in return.

LE MATIN: What exactly does the PLO Charter say about the destruction of Israel?

Abu Iyad: I want to be entirely frank about this issue, which has prompted much comment. The PLO Charter mentions the establishment of an independent, democratic and nonsectarian Palestinian state. Some people have interpreted this as a desire to destroy Israel. In fact, what we want is the establishment of a state in which all forms of racial and religious discrimination will be abolished; in which Jews, Christians and Muslims will coexist. I believe this is what the PLO Charter says. Since 1973 we have been talking about a state established on any portion of the liberated territories in Palestine, as a positive step toward a just solution. But what has happened since 1973? As-Sadat went to Israel, and then the conspiracy emerged more and more clearly. We realized that our moderate stance was only encouraging that conspiracy. There is a formula that we do not accept, and it is as follows: We should recognize Israel, even though Israel does not recognize us as a people and does not recognize the Palestinian people's rights.

LE MATIN: What kind of miracle would it take for negotiations to begin between Israel and the PLO?

Abu Iyad: The question does not arise, since, as you know, Israel refuses to recognize the PLO.

LE MATIN: But isn't it a vicious circle to demand the establishment of a Palestinian state before beginning peace negotiations?

Abu Iyad: The easiest solution would be for the United Nations to supervise a referendum whereby the Palestinian people would exercise their right to self-determination. But at present this all seems utopian, because hitherto the balance of forces has been clearly in Israel's favor. And until this balance is altered it will be impossible to talk about a solution. In any case, if this balance had not been in Israel's favor, would Mitterrand have visited that state?

LE MATIN: When you talk about altering the balance of forces, do you mean that the Palestinian cause must be advanced in the United States so that the United States will force Israel to accept peace?

Abu Iyad: No. This is not how we see it. The balance of forces, as we envisage it, will not favor the Arab forces until the Arab countries have attained a certain powerful political, economic and military level, which will enable them to exert influence on the strategic plane. We class the United States with our enemies and we will not beg for any solution from that country.

LE MATIN: Do you believe that the Arab world can improve its economic potential and, above all, its political unity?

Abu Iyad: I am optimistic and my optimism is well founded. It is enough for one Arab country to declare war on Israel -- even a war of attrition -- for all the Arab countries to rally around it. One very instructive example of this is the Syrian missile crisis. When this problem arose all the Arab countries supported Syria. Iraq and Jordan stopped their campaign against Damascus....

LE MATIN: You seem to me very optimistic about Arab solidarity. If Israel attacks you in southern Lebanon -- as you predict -- do you believe that any Arab country will come to your aid?

Abu Iyad: The situation is entirely different in southern Lebanon, where there is no army equipped to face Israel. What southern Lebanon does have are the fedayeen and the forces of the Lebanese popular movement, who can wage a guerrilla war but not the kind of war I was referring to before. Let Syria or Jordan declare war on Israel and succeed in bearing all the consequences, and the situation will, I believe, be entirely different. Such a war could happen and we are working toward it.

LE MATIN: Are there any contacts between the PLO and Egypt's President Mubarak?

Abu Iyad: No.

LE MATIN: Is the Fahd plan dead and buried?

Abu Iyad: That plan should have been proposed not to the Arabs but to the United States and the European countries. We opposed that plan because it implied the prior recognition of the State of Israel. Prince Fahd should have proposed his plan to the United Nations, the United States and the European countries, which do not recognize the Palestinian people's rights. Fahd's second mistake was that he did not secure sufficient guarantees from the United States and Europe before proposing his plan to the Arabs.

CHEDLI KLIBI URGES 'DYNAMIC ACTION' ON MIDEAST

PM150841 Brussels LE SOIR in French 9 Mar 82 pp 1, 3

[Michel Dubuisson interview with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in Paris -- date not specified.]

[Text] Paris, 7 Mar -- The Arab countries expect dynamic action from the Europeans to promote peace in the Near East.

President Mitterrand, after spelling out necessary principles in Jerusalem, should carry his thinking through. The examination of the Saudi peace plan by the Arab summit could be resumed before July. That is the substance of some of the statements made to us in Paris by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi before starting a 3-day official visit to Brussels this Monday [8 March].

First, Mr Klibi told us about the importance of his visit to Belgium -- a country "which is increasing its relations with the Arab world" and which now has the chairmanship of the EEC Council of Ministers. "It was, therefore, important for the two sides to hold consultations on means of reviving the Euro-Arab dialogue."

[Question] What is the position on that dialogue, which had stopped for a time?

[Answer] We have succeeded in starting a process which seems fairly positive, since we have regular meetings -- technical meetings, of course, but useful ones. We have frequent consultations and have drawn up a plan for convening a conference at ministerial level. The plan has been accepted by both sides and it could be implemented before the end of this year. [answer ends]

Mr Klibi also places his meetings with "old friends," European Commission President Gaston Thorn and Commissioner for Cooperation Edgard Pisani, in the context of accelerating the process of the Euro-Arab dialogue.

[Question] So the Euro-Arab dialogue is not dead....

[Answer] It is not. It has been slowed down for a time because the two communities each had their problems, and also because there were some actions which we deplored, for example the vote by the EEC countries at the UN General Assembly -- a vote which we did not understand. How could those countries vote against sanctions when they had condemned Israel for annexing the Golan, instead of abstaining at the very least? There is a misunderstanding which I hope will not radically effect the course of the Euro-Arab dialogue. [answer ends]

With regard to the annexation of the Golan, Mr Klibi also stressed the importance of the communique published (in February) by the Arab foreign ministers -- a document which was intended to be an appeal, characterized by restraint, to the Europeans and Americans to stress the serious nature of the situation, and also a kind of warning "that it is not possible for the aggressive and expansionist Israeli policy to continue without prompting much more serious reactions from the Arab countries."

[Question] What do you think of Europe's position on the Near East conflict?

[Answer] Europe has taken some time to pose the problem in a fairly concrete way, especially through the Venice declaration, which contained a series of principles. That lacked an operational aspect and we do not think that the community countries are determined to take an independent European initiative to favor the search for a just and comprehensive peace.

There seems to be some misunderstanding in the minds of some European officials who think that initiative necessarily means a confrontation with the United States. There is no inevitability about that. Quite the reverse: We think the European initiative should first try to convince the United States of some essential facts -- to explain to the Americans that the Near East problem was not solved when an attempt was made to solve marginal problems like that of Sinai, while leaving the central problem, the Palestinian problem, unsolved. It is not logical to tackle secondary problems and maintain that this will facilitate the solution of the problem which caused them.

[Question] Do you think the Europeans are now prepared to take such action?

[Answer] It is not for me to say. I said that recently to President Mitterrand, with whom I had a long meeting, and I explained to him that the Arab countries expect France and the EEC to decide on dynamic action which would encourage a real peace in the Near East.

Some statements by President Mitterrand and his external relations minister seem to indicate that France is convinced that the right to existence for the peoples surrounding Israel should also be recognized and that there cannot be any sound peace unless the Palestinian people are restored their legitimate rights: a homeland and a state. That is the most positive aspect of Mr Mitterrand's speech to the Knesset and it is not for me to stress its omissions and gaps here.

I would simply like to stress that the French president, who feels very close to Israel, felt he had to state those essential truths before the Israeli parliament and that he did so because he is convinced that those are the fundamental conditions for a lasting peace. We hope he will not stop halfway now that he has spelled out the necessary principles: He must follow that logic through and take action to preserve peace.

Peace is not indivisible. All the West European countries should return to the logic of the Venice declaration.

[Question] On the Arab side, will the Saudi peace plan, the "Fahd plan," be reexamined by the heads of state?

[Answer] The Fes "summit" was postponed to enable the Arab League members to pursue the dialogue started by the foreign ministers at the summit. My contacts with certain heads of state give reason to hope that positions will be developed fairly quickly. If that development work is continued we can hope for a resumption of the summit before July -- that Saudi plan being part of a series of files constituting the Arab strategy on Israel.

[Question] What is the position on a possible rapprochement between Egypt and the Arab League?

[Answer] If you mean contacts between Cairo and the league, there is nothing doing, there are none. We hope for that return. When? The date of 25 April (final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai -- LE SOIR editor's note) has no importance. The return to the bosom of the Arab family involves fundamental options connected with the Camp David agreements, which were the cause of the dispute between As-Sadat and his peers. Any return must take place with clarity.

BAHRAINSABOTEURS' TRIAL ADJOURNED FOR EVIDENCE REVIEW

GF131800 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Manama, 13 Mar (WAKH) -- The trial of those involved in the sabotage plot began in Manama today under Shaykh Khalifah ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah, presiding judge of the civil Supreme Court of Appeals, and Senior Magistrate Muftah as-Sa'di, Senior Magistrate 'Ali Mansur, and the Public Prosecution Committee.

All 73 defendants stood trial. A number of Bahraini lawyers were present in court. Among them were 'Abd al-Ghani Hamzah, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah, Hamid Sanqur, Salman Sahwan, Khalil Adib, Hashim as-Shaybah, Muhammad az-Zayyani and 'Abdallah az-Zayyani. Also present were a number of Bahraini nationals and Bahraini media reporters.

The trial began with a reading of the bill of indictment. The charges included collaboration and contacts with a foreign country to stage hostile acts against Bahrain.

Two defendants were charged with the felony of taking part in the said collaboration and contacts, while all 73 defendants were charged with the crime of joining an illegal organization.

Also among the charges against some of the defendants were recruiting members for an illegal organization and the crime of acquiring and possessing unlicensed explosives and unlicensed or prohibited weapons and ammunition.

The lawyers requested a delay so that they can familiarize themselves with the case file and the evidence of the public prosecution and interview the defendants.

In response to the request, the court decided to adjourn the session for 2 weeks.

KUWAITFURTHER ON RECALL OF DIPLOMATS FROM BEIRUT

GF121415 Doha QNA in Arabic 1256 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Mar (QNA) -- Press reports here today stress that the Kuwaiti Embassy in Beirut still exists and that consular functions are proceeding as normal.

Kuwait's AL-QABAS today quotes Kuwaiti political sources -- whom the paper describes as well informed -- as saying that the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry sent a memorandum recalling Kuwaiti Ambassador in Beirut 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan. The sources added that the withdrawal of the ambassador should not be understood as a withdrawal in the diplomatic sense.

The sources added that Mr al-Bu'ayjan and some of the embassy's members were given unlimited "open leave" that may last weeks or even longer, depending on the circumstances and the need for their return to Lebanon. The sources indicated that this action was taken at the request of the ambassador himself.

The sources noted the reasons for adopting this decision and said that the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has had security information indicating that there is a plan to attack the ambassador and other members of the embassy. The sources added that there is no urgent need for the presence of the ambassador in Lebanon following the postponement of the Arab Followup Committee meetings and the halting of contacts that the ambassador used to make within the framework of continuing Kuwaiti efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

The sources denied the possibility of resuming Kuwait Airways flights to Beirut and explained that the circumstances for canceling the trips still exist.

Cabinet Official's Remarks

LD130822 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0713 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Mar (KUNA) -- The Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn in a press statement here today denied that Kuwait has recalled its envoy to Beirut, 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH quotes the minister as having said that the visit of Al-Bu'ayjan to Kuwait "is no more than a normal work leave to meet senior officials and to give a detailed report on the latest developments in Lebanon."

Press reports have stated that the Kuwait ambassador and a number of embassy staff members left Beirut after they received threats from undisclosed sources.

Husayn expressed his "astonishment at the predictions and the exaggerated reactions manufactured by news agencies on this question."

Further Comments

LD141526 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1431 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Mar (KUNA) -- The Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, described Kuwaiti-Lebanese relations as continually firm, permanent and developing. He stressed that Kuwait will participate, today tomorrow or at any time, in anything that would contribute to the achievement of security, peace and stability in Lebanon.

After the weekly meeting of the Kuwaiti Cabinet, he indicated that the presence in Kuwait of the Kuwaiti ambassador to Lebanon, 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan, is the result of extraordinary circumstances. Al-Bu'ayjan returned here at the beginning of the week after rumors of threats against him. Husayn expressed the hope that this situation would pass and that Ambassador Bu'ayjan would return to work in Beirut.

He stressed that the Kuwaiti Embassy in Beirut is still in operation and staffed with officials performing the tasks with which they are charged.

BULGARIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

LD151012 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Excerpt] His excellency the president of the Republic of Bulgaria, Todor Zhivkov and his accompanying delegation arrived at Kuwait International Airport at about 1230 today for a 3-day official visit to Kuwait.

The amir of Kuwait, the heir apparent and prime minister, senior statesmen and the dean of the diplomatic corps were at the airport to welcome Todor Zhivkov and his accompanying delegation.

QATARAR-RAYAH ON RESOLUTION OF DISPUTE WITH BAHRAIN

GF131334 Doha AR-RAYAH in Arabic 10 Mar 82 p 1

[Editorial: "Victory for the Spirit of Solidarity"]

[Text] With a spirit of responsibility and a profound familial view, the GCC foreign ministers dealt with the Bahraini-Qatari dispute over Hawar Island by laying down the necessary objective bases to resolve the dispute completely and reasonably while at the same time serving the interests of the two fraternal countries.

Undoubtedly, the GCC has succeeded in its first test of this kind by ending a dispute between two of its members. Its success is manifested in a series of measures to overcome barriers.

It quickly contained and limited the crisis, and thus it achieved its first success. In getting the disputing parties to come to the Gulf family's table, the GCC achieved its second success. In laying down the bases to settle the dispute and defining the steps to implement them either by freezing the situation or by not allowing it to be escalated, stopping provocative campaigns or in affirming the continuation of fraternal relations, the GCC has enhanced the spirit of fraternity in resolving disputes between brothers.

And, finally, by charging the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with exerting good-will efforts to resolve the difference, the GCC made a bigger country a dove of peace equally satisfactory to both the Qatari and Bahraini sides.

Out of these bases and principles, and out of spirit of solidarity which their majesties and excellencies the GCC leaders laid down in their conferences and meetings, we are confident that the good-will efforts will undoubtedly contain the sudden crisis and return the situation to the normality that characterizes not only Qatari-Bahraini relations but also the relations among Gulf countries in general.

SAUDI ARABIACOMMENTARY ON U.S. ROLE IN PEACE EFFORT

GF122008 Doha QNA in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Mar (QNA) -- Riyadh radio has expressed belief that the United States can play a major role in the next phase of resolving [words indistinct] of the Middle East that does not exceed mere temporary efforts to stop [word indistinct] peace that is based on fixed and just bases.

In its commentary today, the radio called for the United States to enter the stage of full confrontation of the problem on the basis of a true desire to see peace and security prevail in the region and in disregard of Israeli fears and claims. These claims are not based on logic and are made because of a certain psychological situation and tactical intentions to hinder any attempt to establish peace in the region.

The radio refuted Israeli claims that the establishment of a Palestinian state would pose a threat to the Zionist entity.

It said: The Israelis who reiterate such claims realize better than anyone else that the establishment of a Palestinian state would be part of a comprehensive peace agreement that would organize relations among all parties and would also enable the Palestinian people to regain some of their usurped rights.

The radio called on the United States to take this specific step in its treatment of the case since the calming efforts to maintain the status quo have been exhausted.

The radio added that the Arab sides may not find themselves ready in the future to continue to accept their minimum demands.

LIBYAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES TO OPEN PEOPLE'S BUREAU

GF121920 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Mar 82 p 1

[Text] Muhammad al-Bahi, Libyan adviser [Mustashar] at the people's bureau, has arrived in Jidda to open the Libyan People's Bureau in Saudi Arabia. Mr al-Bahi is the Libyan charge d'affaires.

PDRY

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD INTERVIEWED ON YEMEN UNITY

EA121920 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and of the Council of Ministers, has called for coordination to discuss the draft constitution of the unity state.

In an interview with the Abu Dhabi newspaper, AL-WAHDAH, the text of which will be published by the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH tomorrow, Saturday, he said: We are still awaiting the reply of the brothers in San'a' to our invitation to an extraordinary meeting of the council to discuss the draft constitution of the unity state. He expressed his confidence that the future will see the realization of the wish for unity that is dear to the hearts of all honorable sons of Yemeni people, no matter how many difficulties and obstacles the enemies may try to plant in our path.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also stressed that the issue of the unity of the Yemeni homeland will continue to be one of the main issues which honorable nationalists and progressives in the Yemeni arena are struggling for. He explained that the achievement of unity is meeting difficulties and obstacles planted by imperialist and reactionary forces and their agents inside the Yemeni arena. However, these forces have not been able to halt the march of the unity of our people. This was said in a press interview which Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad gave to the newspaper AL-KHALIJ, published in the United Arab Emirates, and which was published by the newspaper 14 OCTOBER today.

The brother secretary general said many things have been achieved at the level of the joint unionist committees, which have made important progress towards agreement on the policy of unity in the political, economic, social, educational and [word indistinct] fields. He pointed out that the constitutional committee has finished drawing up the constitution of the unity state, which will be presented to the masses of the people [words indistinct] and then a referendum for these masses to express their opinion about unity and its future.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also pointed in his interview to the meetings he had held with his brother, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in San'a', Ta'izz, Ar-Rahidah and Aden. He explained that they helped create a good atmosphere for unity efforts. During the meetings, issues concerning the interests of the Yemeni people and linked with forms of coordination on Arab and international issues were discussed. The brother secretary general reaffirmed the aspirations of the political leadership in the southern part of the homeland for the establishment of a unified democratic Yemen -- a peaceful and democratic unification. He said the draw of unity truly coming [words indistinct].

In his interview with the newspaper AL-KHALIJ Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad touched on the imperialist and reactionary claims concerning the presence of Soviet military bases in our country. He said the mouthpieces of imperialist and reactionary propaganda are trying to hide the truth from the peoples of the region by false allegations about the Soviet bases in Democratic Yemen.

He explained that these false allegations are not new to our people. Indeed they are a cracked record because there are absolutely no Soviet military bases in our country; rather the military bases that exist in some states of the region belong to American imperialism with its fleet in the Indian Ocean and its bases in Somalia and Oman, in addition to its facilities in some other countries of the region, the existence of AWACS planes in Saudi Arabia and its recent military maneuvers in Oman and Somalia. He stated that all of this proves which of the two world systems threatens the stability of our region. It is the world imperialist system led by America.

AIRLINE WORKERS URGED TO EXPOSE 'CONSPIRATORS'

EA121818 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Mar 82

[Text] Workers of the Civil Aviation Department and of the Democratic Yemen airlines, Alyamda, and their militant cadres sent a cable to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Assembly and of the Council of Ministers, in which they condemned the despicable sabotage conspiracy hatched by imperialist and reactionary circles against our country. In their cable they demand the imposition of maximum penalties against all conspirators.

Today, the General Secretariat of the Transport and Communications Trade Union organized a lecture for workers and employees of the Civil Aviation Department, Alyamda [as heard], in which the brother member of the Central Council and secretary general of the trade union shed more light on the aims and intentions of the sabotage gang with regard to our country. He called on workers to be more vigilant and to help security officials watch and expose the moves of sabotage acts and to maintain the [proper] attitude toward work and public property.

'TOP LEVEL SOURCE' DENIES CABINET SHAKE-UP

NC142153 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA) — A top level source has affirmed to MENA that the current Cabinet is to stay and that no partial or comprehensive changes are being contemplated.

This statement was made today in reply to a question by MENA on reports reiterated from time to time in some Western papers about anticipated ministerial changes in Egypt.

To the person who posed the question, the same source said: You can be certain in all clarity that the current Cabinet enjoys full confidence in its capability to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to it, that the Cabinet is to stay, and that all that is being published about a new Cabinet is completely unfounded.

The source added: We can even confirm that this trend also applies to all other constitutional institutions in Egypt where changes on the level of the People's Assembly, Consultative Council, governors or other institutions are not being contemplated.

MUBARAK MEETS ECONOMIC GROUP, ISSUES DIRECTIVES

NC141201 Cairo MENA in English 1135 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak met this morning with Premier Fu'ad Muhiy ad-Din and members of the economic group.

The meeting was attended by Fikri Makram 'Ubayd, deputy premier for the People's Assembly and the Shura [Consultative] Council's affairs, and Usama al-Baz, first foreign under-secretary who is also presidential advisor for foreign policy affairs.

President Mubarak issued directives today to officials here to work for increasing production and without any change in prices, according to Muhammad 'Abd al-Fattah' deputy premier for financial and economic affairs, who attended a two-hour meeting today with the president together with other members of the state's economic group.

The meeting, the deputy premier said, dealt with several issues pertaining to the agricultural and industrial policy and some of the problems facing the public sector.

MENA HIGHLIGHTS MUBARAK AS-SIYASAH INTERVIEW

NC142323 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has said that Egypt will not be a land or field for any aggression against any Arab country. He said that Egypt has established diplomatic relations with Israel but that this did not mean that it has closed the door to the Arab world.

In an interview he gave to Ahmad al-Jarallah, the chief editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH, the president said that he had informed Israel that Egypt is an Arab country that has its common hopes and pains with its Arab nation, that Egypt's return to the Arab world is a natural matter, and that Egypt might carry out an important role in the process of establishing a comprehensive and just peace -- something that the Arab world is aiming for.

The president said that Egypt's return to the Arab world is inevitable and that the Arab world cannot dispense with Egypt and vice versa. He said that Egypt will not return to the conditions of tension, in which political relations are bought and sold and where it has to respond to an Arab state on restoration of relations on the condition of antagonizing another state.

He said that Egypt belongs to all the Arabs and that the Arab world is asked to understand our conditions and circumstances.

In his interview, President Mubarak said: We do not force anyone to do what we have done. Let us use Egypt as a side with a policy that is different from that prevailing in the Arab world. There are those who want to dialogue through Russia or the United States. Why not through Egypt? We understand best the Arab issues, so let the Arab world consider us a foreign state which wants to establish comprehensive peace.

The president added: The question related to the visit to Israel without going to Jerusalem is one of principle and protocol rules. These do not provide for any state to impose places and itineraries on a visiting head of state.

He said that it is inconceivable for him to visit Jerusalem because there are differences over it between us and Israel. He said that Jerusalem, in his view, is more than a capital of a particular state because it has a religious status in which all religions have a share.

The president said that if he does not visit Israel today, he will at another time and that this will not affect the date of the Israeli withdrawal and will not complicate relations between the two countries.

He added that Israel will not risk the uproar of world complications and its pressure, if it does not withdraw, and therefore, he is confident that the withdrawal will be completed on schedule and that the agreements will be respected.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, President Mubarak said in his interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH: It is a war of attrition at the expense of development projects in both countries. Our sentiments are with Iraq, but we wish for the bloodshed by both sides to stop because, in the end, what is being shed is Muslim blood.

Replying to a question on the fact that some people are saying he has started "wooing" Soviet leadership, the president said that he did not understand "political wooing." After explaining the story of the Soviet factory experts, he said: Our relations with America do not infringe on the concept of independence of views but constitute agreement on joint and equal interests. What we are seeking are similar equal relations, whether with America or the Soviet Union. My only "wooing" is respect for national sovereignty.

The president said: We are living in the age of development, and the future carries fearful figures which we must concentrate on tackling from now on so that the political leadership will not have to face popular rebuke.

The president said that he was not an ambiguous man as has been said, but that he was different from some politicians. He said that he did not hesitate to present questions that needed to be confronted, that his views on them were always clear, and that tackling them was not based on action for the sake of action but on the basis of clear sightedness, calmness and interaction with the people and issues honestly and sincerely.

He said that he was not ambiguous as far as Egypt was concerned and that his principle was that anyone who works with sincerity will find a place with him. Otherwise, he will be censured no matter who he may be.

The president said that he absolutely had not interfered in the trial of As-Sadat's assassins and that he had left justice to take its course.

The president said that when making a decision he has been accustomed to listen to various sides and views and that he who works in earnestness for Egypt will be his partner in working for its interests. Apart from this, I am not fit to receive the penitents or the unemployed.

The president said that talk of administrative corruption was exaggerated but that he would show no mercy in the case of deliberate error.

More on Mubarak Interview

NC150632 Paris AFP in English 0612 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (AFP) -- Egypt is "at heart with Iraq in its war against Iran," Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has announced.

He said this in a Kuwaiti newspaper interview, the daily AL-AHRAM reported here today.

The late President Anwar as-Sadat sold weapons to Iraq early last year but never took sides verbally with Iraq. General Mubarak was quoted as saying: "We will not hesitate to aid Iraq as we can." But he said: "That war only serves the interests of arms merchants, and it causes Moslem bloodshed that is completely useless."

MUBARAK RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SUDANESE PRESIDENT

NC141453 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak received at noon today in Al-'Urubah Palace the Sudanese president's adviser, Mahjub Sulayman, who carried a message from President Ja'far Numayri to President Mubarak.

The Sudanese adviser stated after the 30-minute meeting that the message deals with bilateral relations between Egypt and Sudan.

Mahjub Sulayman described his mission as normal and said that his visit comes within the framework of the continuing consultations which always require the exchange of views between the two presidents for greater coordination in the integration sphere.

He pointed out that the visit also comes within the framework of strong and excellent relations. These relations are manifested in different forms, including reciprocal meetings between Presidents Mubarak and Numayri, and messages carried by envoys of the two presidents.

JOINT WITHDRAWAL COMMITTEE TO MEET 15 MAR

NC121703 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA) -- The fourth round of talks to be held by the higher joint Egyptian-Israeli committee concerned with the procedures for Egypt's takeover of the remaining part of Sinai will begin in Tel Aviv on Monday.

The Egyptian side to the 4-day committee meetings will be headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and the Israeli side by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. The Egyptian side will include Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Tahir Shash, Ambassador Fawzi al-Ibrashi, Ambassador Ra'uf Ghunaym, Ambassador 'Ismat Rida, and Minister Plenipotentiary Muhammad 'Asim.

This new round of talks is of particular significance because it will deal with the final executive measures for Israel's withdrawal from Sinai and Egypt's return to its international borders according to the agreement ratified in 1904. [as received].

During its meetings, the joint Egyptian-Israeli committee will discuss matters related to the multinational force and the timetable for taking its positions before 25 April.

It is known that the members of this force will begin arriving in the (Al-Jurah) and Sharm ash-Shaykh areas on 20 March and will continue arriving until 25 March.

The committee will also discuss turning over the installations in northern Sinai and the inspection of these installations in accordance with the treaty in this regard.

'Ali's discussions in Israel will also deal with the Palestinian autonomy talks and consultations for convening a tripartite Egyptian-U.S.-Israeli meeting at the ministerial level during the first week of April.

During his visit to Israel, 'Ali will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

'ALI CARRIES MUBARAK MESSAGE FOR BEGIN

NC141918 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] An official Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated that during his visit to Israel, which will begin tomorrow, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will convey a message to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin from President Husni Mubarak concerning the peace process in the Middle East and relations between Egypt and Israel.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, will leave Cairo tomorrow for Israel to attend the meetings of the higher joint Egyptian-Israeli committee, which will begin tomorrow, to discuss the arrangements for the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

AL-'AQIDAH INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER 'ALI

NC131808 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that Egypt welcomes the reinstatement of normal inter-Arab relations. He said: Egypt welcomes all the sincere efforts exerted to restore Arab solidarity. At the same time, however, Egypt expects the brother Arabs to understand that peace is a fateful option. He added: Egypt also expects the brother Arabs to understand that when Egypt opted for pursuing the course of peace with Israel, Egypt was not making a choice between the Arabs and Israel. Rather, Egypt was choosing between war or peace.

In an interview with the Oman-based AL-'AQIDAH magazine, 'Ali affirmed that the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai will take place precisely on schedule, and that, while seeking to liberate its territory, Egypt neither bargains over nor squanders the Palestinian people's rights. He noted Egypt's frequent announcement that it will not sign a declaration of principles disagreeable to the Palestinians.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ON U.S. SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS

NC132257 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA) -- AL-JUMHURIYAH says that what remains is only the U.S. administration's recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination so that the peace question in the Middle East can be moved forward, now that French President Francois Mitterrand has called for the right of self-determination for these people before the Israeli Knesset.

The paper notes in this respect that the French president's assertions after his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan that he, the U.S. president, sees that the affirmation of Israel's rights and the rights of other peoples in the Middle East would facilitate the achievement of peace in the area.

The paper stresses, in a commentary to be published Sunday, that if that statement meant the rights of all the peoples, including the Palestinian people, then the problem would actually be nearing a solution. But if the Palestinian people are excluded then the question will remain as it is now.

MUBARAK RECEIVES LETTER FROM THATCHER

NC121822 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1803 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] London, 12 Mar (MENA) -- A spokesman for the British Cabinet stated today that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in the letter she sent to President Husni Mubarak yesterday, emphasized that their talks in London in February were extremely valuable and useful.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in London, the spokesman said that Mrs Thatcher also expressed in the letter her thanks to President Mubarak for the letter he recently sent her explaining Egypt's viewpoint on the situation in the Middle East.

British Ambassador in Cairo Michael Weir yesterday delivered Mrs Thatcher's letter to Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary and Director of the President's Office for Political Affairs Usamah al-Baz.

MURBARAK RECEIVES FRG ECONOMIC MINISTER

NC141319 Cairo MENA in English 1230 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak conferred today with visiting West German Minister of Economy Otto Lambsdorff, who arrived here last night for a three-day visit for talks with senior Egyptian economists.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Economy Dr Hash'im Fu'ad and West German ambassador here Dr Kurt Mueller.

The German minister said after his 45-minute meeting with President Mubarak that their talks dealt with the latest Mideast developments in continuation of those held between the Egyptian president and German Chancellor Schmidt during Mubarak's latest visit to the FRG.

Asked by reporters if any economic subject was raised during his talks today with the president, he said that President Mubarak made it clear that the economic issue is gaining prime interest in Egypt.

Elaborating, he said that he would be holding talks with senior economic, finance and industry officials to see to ways and means to bolster cooperation between Egypt and Germany in the economic domain.

PRC TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC121818 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1643 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA) -- PRC Foreign Trade Ministry Under Secretary Zhang Genghe [title as received] arrived in Cairo this evening heading a trade delegation for an 8-day visit to Egypt during which he will attend the opening of the Cairo International Fair.

The Chinese official and his delegation will also participate in the meetings of the joint Egyptian-[PRC] economic committee to renew the trade and payment protocol between the two countries for the year 1982.

The Egyptian side to the committee meetings will be headed by Economy and Foreign Trade Ministry First Under Secretary 'Adil al-Jarhi and the Chinese side by the deputy trade minister who will arrive in Cairo in 3 days time.

RAMADAN SAYS SYRIANS WILL TOPPLE AL-ASAD

JN130814 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA) -- Taha Yasin Ramadan, commander in chief of the Popular Army, has revealed that the Syrian opposition groups will soon announce the establishment of national unity among them to topple Hafiz Al-Asad's regime.

In a speech delivered yesterday while bidding farewell to another group of Popular Army soldiers who left for the front, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the unity among the Syrian opposition groups will include various political trends, national figures and other forces. These forces will state that they will continue the armed struggle to save Arab Syria from the traitors and renegades. Hamah will be the symbol of this Arab phenomenon to save Syria from its rulers. Taha Yasin Ramadan added that Hamah has been destroyed and that the sons of this courageous city are still resisting the executioner.

Taha Yasin Ramadan strongly attacked the Syrian regime. He said: This regime has sold out its dignity and honor to the foreigner in order to remain in power and this regime has used its forces to strike Hamah which has courageously confronted tanks, artillery, fighter planes and rocket launchers. He added: Hafiz Al-Asad's regime and other traitors have assisted their ally, Khomeyni, in prolonging the war, a war which will bring ill-omened results on all the traitors and glory and dignity to Iraq and the Arab nation. He stressed that many parties are seeking to prolong the war between Iraq and Iran and to prevent Iraq from regaining its full rights to its land and waters. The results of the war, however, will be transformed into an Arab phenomenon which cannot be checked by any individual or force. He cited as an example the resistance which the city of Hamah has carried against the Syrian regime.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that the war has engendered important results such as the Iraqi military victories, the entrenchment of national unity and the stress put on Iraq's great and outstanding capability to continue construction and progress. This is a unique phenomenon which can be called the Iraqi phenomenon.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added that Iraq's enemies believed that the prolongation of the war would destroy national unity, halt the process of development and implant despair and defeatism in the hearts of the fighters. The results that have been obtained prove the contrary and that what they dreamed of took place in Iran. Taha Yasin Ramadan said that after 18 months of the war, Iraq enjoys a cohesive national unity of which it is proud, a wide development movement and a preparedness by all the sons of Iraq to protect Iraq's sovereignty and dignity as well as the dignity of the Arab nation.

SYRIAN ACCUSATIONS ON BOMB EXPLOSIONS REFUTED

JN131237 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1210 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] A spokesman for the Ministry of Culture and Information has refuted the Syrian regime's claims that official Iraqi organs are responsible for attempts to explode boobytrapped cars in Syria.

The spokesman said the Syrian regime, which is facing a broad popular resistance and has immersed itself in the blood of the sons of the Syrian Arab people, is trying to cover up the facts by claiming that the broad popular resistance taking place in Syria is being planned from outside.

The Arab masses and world public opinion know that there is a comprehensive popular revolution against the Syrian regime and that this isolated regime has been confronting this revolution with bloody oppression and wide-scale terrorism as evidenced by its crimes against the people of Hamah which are unprecedented except in the history of the occupation authorities.

The realities in Hamah are known to everyone. The Damascus regime, which has sustained itself for a long time on lies, and fabrications, cannot deceive people through these stupid maneuvers which claim that what is taking place in Syria is being planned from outside it. The comprehensive popular resistance can only be the result of the hatred of the Syrian people for this bloody and corrupt regime which has alienated itself from the Syrian people and history and from Syria's genuine Arab character.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES SUDANESE MINISTER

JN131830 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn received here today Sudanese Minister of State for Interior Affairs Dr Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Saq who is participating in the meetings of the Arab Labor Conference now convening in Baghdad.

The Sudanese minister conveyed on verbal message to President Saddam Husayn from Sudanese President Muhammad Ja'far Numayri dealing with bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, Revolution Command Council secretary and acting chief of the president's office.

HUSAYN, PDRY LABOR MINISTER CONFER 14 MAR

JN141700 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad -- President Saddam Husayn this morning received PDRY Labor Minister Nasir Nasir 'Ali, who is participating in the 10th session of the Arab labor conference now convening in Baghdad. Relations between the two fraternal countries and the Arab situation were discussed during the meeting, which was also attended by Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, Revolution Command Council secretary general and deputy director of the president's office.

ARAB LEAGUE'S KLIBI ARRIVES FOR TALKS 14 MAR

JN140840 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA) -- Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Baghdad this morning on a short visit to Iraq. In a statement on arrival, Klibi expressed feelings of solidarity with Iraq and pride in the heroic deeds and victories Iraq is scoring to protect Arab rights. He said he would be holding talks with Iraqi officials on several topics dealing with joint Arab action. Klibi is accompanied by Munsif al-May, advisor to the secretary general and head of the Arab affairs department. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi.

Hammadi Receives

JN141149 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA) -- Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met here today with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

The two sides discussed the forthcoming Arab League council meeting, the most important topic on the agenda, the amending of the Arab League Charter and how to develop joint Arab action to serve the fateful Arab causes, particularly the issue of Palestine. They also reviewed Arab stands, provocations against the Arab nation and the aggressive measures by the Zionist entity against southern Lebanon and the Arab nation.

A Foreign Ministry source told INA that Dr Hammadi reaffirmed to Chedli Klibi Iraq's principled and unwaivering stand on pan-Arab causes and Iraq's commitment to its obligations and responsibilities to safeguard the unity of joint Arab action and to achieve the pan-Arab objectives for which the Arab League was established.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin, Foreign Ministry under secretary and head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab department.

Departs 14 Mar

JN141850 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA) -- Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Baghdad this evening at the end of a 1-day visit to Iraq.

In a predeparture statement to INA, Klibi said: I have discussed the various topics that concern the Arab homeland and international political issues with 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman and several ranking officials.

Klibi met with 'Izzat Ibrahim before his departure. The current Arab situation and the Iraqi-Iranian war were discussed during the meeting. The RCC vice chairman asserted Iraq's capability of confronting the racist Persian aggression. He also reaffirmed the solidity of the Iraqi economy.

SPOKESMAN ON VISITS OF FAMILIES OF POW'S

JN131846 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA) -- A foreign Ministry official spokesman today stated that Iraq has received Iran's answer to the Iraqi proposals on the regulation of visits by the families of the POW's. In a statement to INA, the spokesman added that details of the Iranian answer have been received through the competent authorities in fraternal Kuwait and that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has, in turn, informed the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] mission in Baghdad of its observations on the Iranian answer.

The spokesman expects that the visits will take place soon through the two stations at which the exchange of visits will be effected in Kuwait and Ankara. He said Iraq proposes that the visits include all the POW's, that the ICRC lists of the POW's be considered and that the beginning and end of the visits be determined with the agreement of both sides through the ICRC.

The spokesman pointed out that the family should be defined to include the wife, children, father and mother, and when these are not available, a sister or brother of the prisoner should be included. He said all preparations have been made in Iraq for the reception of the families of the Iranian POW's. They will be given all the amenities, housing, transportation, medical care and facilities to visit the holy places in Iraq.

The spokesman expressed his gratitude for the ICRC and said that the committee is exerting great efforts to supervise the process.

PLO OFFICIAL: LEAGUE ULTIMATUM 'POSITIVE'

JN141904 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Najib al-Ahmad, the director of the PLO Executive Committee chairman's office in Amman, has said that reports from the occupied homeland confirm that the recent Jordanian ultimatum regarding the village leagues has started to take positive effect. Signs of division have appeared among the ranks of league members. Some refused to attend meetings of these suspect leagues and began to retreat out of fear.

HEBRON LEAGUE COUNCIL MEMBER WITHDRAWS

JN141417 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Occupied West Bank -- After having realized the suspect roles of the so-called local village leagues, Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories continued today to withdraw from these leagues, which are linked with Israel and which are being used by the occupation authorities to implement the civilian administration plot.

Reports said that Isma'il Khalil 'Abd al-Fattah al-Hurub, member of the village league in Khirbat Dayr ash-Shams, has withdrawn from the Hebron village league and from the village council. Five more members are expected to withdraw from these suspect leagues.

JORDANIAN DAILY COMMENTS ON BEGIN, DUDIN MEETING

JN130917 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Mar 82 pp 1, 21

[Editorial]

[Text] Menahem Begin's meeting with the so-called head of the Hebron village league further exposes the real purpose of forming these suspect leagues. Israel wants to use them as a tool in carrying out its terrorist and expansionist policy and plans and to make the world believe that a handful of agents can represent the Palestinian people and negotiate with the occupation authorities on their behalf.

By this much-publicized meeting, Begin wanted to boost the morale of these agents, who were exposed by the Jordanian decision. Begin promised to give them more funds and arms for protection and to meet all their requirements in order to guarantee the continuation of what he termed the important role played by the village leagues. Begin was, of course, referring to the important service which these agent organizations are rendering to Israel.

Although Israel has only succeeded in forming these leagues from among the rabble, the likes of which exist in many countries and nations of the world, the Israeli officials have not stopped trying to inflate and strengthen the position of these rabble in a desperate effort to find someone to cooperate with them. But they will not find a single honest citizen willing to cooperate with the enemies of his people and nation and the usurpers of his territory.

Sharon, the brain behind Israeli settlement plans who is well-known for his lust for Arab territory, has promised what he termed the heads of village leagues new weapons, to pay monthly salaries to league members and to enable them to carry arms. This refutes the claim of the head of the Hebron village league that the purpose of these leagues is to develop the villages, provide services and improve the living conditions of the villagers. These leagues are no more than terrorist organizations, which have been established by the enemy to destroy villages and turn Palestinians against one another so as to undermine and weaken their unity and resistance against occupation.

Israeli papers themselves have admitted that the villages leagues are intended to terrorize the Arab inhabitants, encourage disputes and drown the villages in problems and rancor. In an article last Tuesday, 'AL HAMISHMAR reported on the activities of these agent organizations in the villages of Bal'in in the Ramallah district. These agents committed crimes and acts of terrorism. They opened fire on and attacked citizens under the surveillance of the occupation soldiers.

We still hope that these misled people will return to their conscience, wash their hands off this wily conspiracy and realize, before it is too late, that Israeli protection will not save them from punishment. Their collaboration will not discredit the honorable struggle of our people and will not weaken their resistance against occupation; on the contrary, it will only make them more solidly determined to face the enemy and its agents and foil all their plans and ambitions.

INFORMATION MINISTER RECEIVES BRITISH OFFICIAL

JN141413 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah received in his office today Ronald Moyle, minister of foreign affairs in the shadow cabinet and member of the British Labor Party, who is currently visiting Jordan.

Moyle, who visited Jordan many years ago, expressed admiration for the progress made in Jordan -- progress covering all fields and domains.

Abu 'Awdah reviewed the projects that have been accomplished and those that are being accomplished, adding that these projects, which are chiefly based on Jordan's natural resources, will play an important role in the future of Jordan.

Abu 'Awdah briefed the British official on the situation in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli attempts to annex it and the various methods Israel is pursuing to implement this, whether by moving the Israeli settlers or by forming local leagues through which Israel is preparing to legalize the annexation of the occupied territories.

Abu 'Awdah said that the Jordanian Government, proceeding from its national and pan-Arab responsibilities, gave a chance to those involved in these leagues, which were created and financed by the occupation authorities, to withdraw from them or else be punished in accordance with Jordanian law. The minister explained that the Jordanian Government gave a chance to those involved to withdraw from these leagues because it knows that many of those who joined the leagues did so without understanding the dimensions and objectives of the village leagues, for there is no Arab Palestinian citizen or any citizen in this world who would agree to be a tool in the hands of an enemy who is going to usurp his land and homeland.

CHEDLI KLIBI MAKES BEIRUT ARRIVAL STATEMENT

NC121858 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi's 12 March statement on arrival at Beirut airport]

[Text] This afternoon, [Arab League Secretary General] Chedli Klibi arrived in Beirut from Paris at the request of the Lebanese Government. Klibi's talks in Beirut will touch on two principal issues: The first is the setting of a new date for the postponed meeting of the Arab Followup Committee; the second is connected with the meeting of the Arab minicommitee to map out a unified Arab strategy on the south as well as the meeting of the Arab committee scheduled for convocation on 18 March in Tunis. Klibi was met by [Foreign Affairs and Expatriates] Minister Butrus and by a number of well-wishers. At Beirut airport, Klibi spoke to the radio reporter. He said:

[Begin recording] I am visiting Beirut at the kind invitation of the Lebanese Government to confer about a set of subjects: the [Arab] Followup Committee and the possibility of suggesting a date for its coming meeting. I also cite the committee on southern Lebanon which, as is known, will hold a second meeting on 18 March. I will take this opportunity to discuss with my friend, his highness the foreign minister, and also with his excellency the president as well as with His Excellency Prime Minister al-Wazzan, a set of subjects of interest to joint Arab action. The secretary general wants to know the Lebanese Government's views on these subjects.

[Question] Your Excellency, Mr Secretary General: It has been observed that the [meetings of] the Arab Followup Committee have been frozen for some time.

[Answer] This word "frozen" is frequently used in the Lebanese press. The meetings of the committee have been postponed — and nothing presages their freezing. I believe that some members of the committee faced some circumstances and that these circumstances prompted the postponement of this meeting. God willing, this meeting will be held in the very near future — and this is one of the purposes of my presence in Beirut.

[Question] It has been said that some divergences in viewpoints among the members of the committee have prompted the postponement of the committee's meeting.

[Answer] Never. I can deny such rumors fully.

[Question] Your Excellency, Mr Secretary General: Concerning the Arab minicommitee, and as is known, the meeting of this committee has been postponed.

[Answer] It has not been postponed. No, I differ completely with using the word "postponement."

[Question] Until 18 March?

[Answer] No, no. The committee held its first meeting. Its members then agreed that the coming, that is, the second meeting, should be held on 18 [March]. This meeting will be held on schedule and it might last 1 or 2 days. Also, the committee members might agree on another date.

[Question] What do you expect the meeting of this committee to produce this time concerning a joint Arab strategy in southern Lebanon?

[Answer] I expect that every committee member will express his views on the working paper submitted by the Lebanese Government; that a fraternal and frank discussion will be held on all these subjects; and that we will emerge with clear-cut views on proposals for every subject in the working paper.

[Question] Your Excellency, Mr Secretary General: Since the meeting of the followup committee the Lebanese citizens have noticed that this committee's decisions have remained only ink on paper. Can we know the reason?

[Answer] Also on this count, I regret to differ with you on all these verdicts which you are handing down. It is true that the followup committee had made a set of recommendations, not decisions. It made a set of recommendations. All of the members of the committee, including the Lebanese Government, have been able to implement some of these recommendations. The other recommendations will be implemented after some time. The reason is that there are some things which cannot be implemented and achieved at the same time -- that is, overnight.

[Question] Will you visit countries other than Lebanon?

[Answer] My present tour might include the UAE and Baghdad, on the understanding that I will later visit the remaining Arab states which I have been unable to visit since the Fes Summit Conference.

[Question] The last question, Mr Secretary General: There is an official Lebanese reproach of the Arab League's moves on Lebanon. What is your reply to this reproach?

[Answer] By God, should there be any reproach then it is due to the fact that the secretary general is very preoccupied with the issues of Lebanon, and also to the fact that the Arab League secretary general is traveling frequently for Lebanon's sake -- be it in the Arab world or in the other countries. I have just returned from my visit to Brussels, where I devoted the largest part of my talks to the Lebanese issue. You can see my written lecture which I delivered from the rostrum of the royal club. Most of it deals with Lebanon. This might indeed call for reproach! [end recording]

Departure Press Conference

NC140752 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Before leaving Beirut for Baghdad last night to resume his Arab tour, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi held a press conference in which he affirmed that he is seeking to convene a new meeting of the Arab Followup Committee in the middle of April, or earlier. He stressed that the postponement of the committee's meeting scheduled to be held on 1 March has no connection with Arab differences.

Klibi said the Arab miniauthority will convene on schedule. He denied the rumors about the postponement of this date. He said the results of the authority's meetings will be discussed at a special session of the Arab League's Council because of the extreme importance of the work that the authority will carry out.

The Arab League secretary general said at his press conference that the Lebanese Government will form the authority that will supervise Lebanese shores. He added that this issue was finally resolved yesterday and the responsibility for it has been determined.

At the outset of the conference, Klibi conveyed his gratitude to the press doyen for attending the conference. He praised the role of the Lebanese press at the current stage.

Speaking about the working session which was held at the presidential palace yesterday morning, the Arab League secretary general said that attention was focused on two topics: the first was the followup committee and the need to ensure its next meeting. He added: We agreed to achieve full coordination between the Lebanese Government and the Arab League. We will act as soon as I return to the League's headquarters in Tunis. The second topic was the meeting of the Quadpartite Committee that is entrusted with preparing a plan for south Lebanon. This committee will hold its second meeting on 18 March. The session provided us with an opportunity to hold consultations on the activities of this committee to ensure that it will carry out its work in the best way and soon be able to present the results of its work to the Arab League's Council. Klibi added: The committee's intended work is of extreme importance. Therefore, we have decided that the results should be presented at a special session of the Arab League's Council.

Asked if the reasons for the postponement of the meetings of the Arab Followup Committee have been eliminated, the Arab League secretary general said: The reasons for the postponement were ordinary, and I do not believe that rumors in this regard are correct.

Klibi denied the rumors that the Arab miniauthority will postpone its activities saying: The Lebanese working paper, which has been submitted to the committee, deals with political, economic and military issues. It is not easy for us to adopt a unified stand on them. Therefore, the majority of the delegations asked for time to study this paper. We will meet on 18 March and submit our conclusions to the Arab League's council. It is better that the League's council hold a special session to ascribe great importance to the committee's resolutions.

Regarding the clamor raised about the authority for supervising the Lebanese shores, Klibi said: The Lebanese Government will form this authority and the Arab League will assume the responsibility for approving its budget. What remains to be tackled are some administrative matters such as security and customs men. This requires some time. The issue was finally resolved today, the responsibility has been determined, and we reached an agreement on everything during the meetings. He added that the final decision has been made and what remains is to assess the expenses, collect the contributions and obtain the League council's financial approval.

Concerning the postponed followup committee's meeting, Klibi said: Arab differences exist and they must be tackled in a positive way characterized by two things: The first is not to belittle these differences and disregard their possible serious effects and the second is that we must not despair. He added: The differences are there, and they are grave at times. However, we confront them very patiently, resolutely and quietly, and we resort to all means to contain and freeze them. Because of this and the unity of Arab efforts we have been able to contain many differences and prevent them from having a negative effect, obstructing the Arab action.

The Arab League secretary general added: The meeting of the Arab Followup Committee has no connection with these differences. I assure you that [Kuwaiti Foreign Minister] His Excellency Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah and [Saudi Foreign Minister] His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal are enthusiastic about this meeting. The postponement was because of personal reasons connected with commitments. I urge the Lebanese public to be optimistic. I call on them to have confidence in themselves and in joint Arab action. We will overcome all problems, God willing.

Asked if Kuwait has decided to withdraw its ambassador Al-Bu'ayjan from Beirut, Klibi answered: Kuwait has not withdrawn its ambassador. He left Beirut for personal and family reasons.

Concerning the convocation of the Arab Followup Committee, Klibi said: We are seeking to convene the Followup Committee's meeting in mid-April or earlier. The 25 April date [the date of the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai] means nothing to us.

Asked about the effect of the mission of [U.S. envoy] Ambassador Philip Habib on the Followup Committee, Klibi answered: We deny that any of our actions are linked with foreign moves. I believe that the American people are a friendly people. We disagree with their government but we sympathize with them and with the principles on which their society was established. He stressed that Lebanese affairs should remain confined to the Lebanese state and sovereignty. Klibi said: I will leave Beirut with positive feelings regarding the development of issues concerning Lebanon. In addition to these meetings which are of direct interest to Lebanon, I have contacted [PLO Chairman] Brother Yasir 'Arafat. We discussed the position inside the occupied territories and what the Palestinian people are doing there and what the PLO is being subjected to in southern Lebanon. I reviewed with Brother Yasir 'Arafat the discussions which I held in Belgium and conveyed to him the feelings of respect which I sensed among all the officials and their high appreciation of the Palestinian people's struggle and the Palestinian leadership's shrewdness which turned this leadership into a main player in the international arena.

PRIME MINISTER ON ARAB FOLLOWUP COMMITTEE

NC131758 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi today met with President Ilyas Sarkis in the presence of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and his personal representative Ambassador Mahmud al-Ma'muri. The discussions dealt with the reasons for postponing the meetings of the Arab Followup Committee and what the Arab League General Secretariat will do to overcome the obstacles that prevented the implementation of the Arab Followup Committee resolutions and consequently led to the postponement of its work. The discussions also dealt with the fate of the joint Arab strategy plan for southern Lebanon, which will be submitted to the minicommitee on 18 March.

At the end of the meeting, Prime Minister al-Wazzan spoke about the subjects that were discussed. He said: [begin recording] Why use the term revival; I say followup. The Arab Followup Committee exists and will continue its work. If it stopped its work for certain reasons, we must overcome these reasons. Thus, we invited his excellency the Arab League secretary general for consultations and to complete the contacts that would push this committee forward to achieve fruitful results that we are awaiting in Lebanon. Perhaps in our consultations we have reached what can be called new measures that I believe, when implemented, will boost the Followup Committee and thus help set a new date for its meeting.

[Question] Can we interpret these measures to mean that there will be new contacts with the member countries of the Followup Committee to set a new date for the meeting?

[Answer] There will be contacts with these countries, or marginal contacts, regarding several issues that might boost the Followup Committee to achieve new results.

[Question] Isn't there a specific thought about a date for the Followup Committee meeting?

[Answer] I do not want to be premature. I am optimistic despite all that is befalling us.

[Question] Regarding the situation in southern Lebanon and the Arab minicommitee, which you discussed during the meeting, is there any change regarding the date for the meeting scheduled on 18 March?

[Answer] As far as I know, the Committee will meet on the date set for it. [end recording]

Seeks Cooperation

NC132132 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has called for cooperation and efforts to rescue Lebanon, particularly the south.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: Our voice has become harsh; it is time that we replace the voice with the whip and carry it behind everybody and tell them: Let us have your hands, for we are in need of them. Prime Minister al-Wazzan was speaking at the opening of the "Book of the South" exhibition tonight in the presence of several politicians and men of letters.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: It pleases us to be among you, and now we cannot be among you while in the atmosphere of the south. We have considered and we continue to consider this steadfast south, the main victim, as the steadfast point that wards off shame for us and the Arabs, and at the same time reflects the picture of the Arab world, which portrays a continuous tragedy. It would not have been continuous had our Arab brothers actually realized that the south and its people, rather the people of Lebanon, are now defending the dignity and right of the Arabs.

What can we say in this cultural atmosphere other than the fact that sacrifices are continuing -- sacrifices by the south and for the south and for the national and humanitarian idea. Freedom is being killed in our soil. We should be the first to raise our voice to defend freedom. We have been accustomed to being supporters of freedom, democracy, justice and human rights. For all these we call today and knock on the doors of the world at the United Nations, at the Arab League, and at every international and regional conference and say: Where are you; where are the charters that we see being slaughtered on our soil.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan also said: Our voice and your voice have become harsh; isn't it time that we replace our voice with the whip and carry it behind everybody? And tell them: Let us have your hands, for we are in need of [your] struggle to support our struggle to stop the aggression on our territory by a treacherous Zionist enemy, who every minute persists in his aggression, threatening and ridiculing all the charters and resolutions while the world looks on like a spectator, as though the matter is of no concern to it. The world left us alone to resist the aggression. Great powers claim that they support justice, but in fact they do not renounce the aggressor.

I share with you this blessed work for it may be a national call from Lebanon, a pan-Arab call, and a humanitarian call.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: We are in a position which demands that we make this call. We hope that those who so far have not heard us will hear, and that everybody will cooperate and join in the efforts. We hope that this call will have its affect on restoring solidarity, without which there will be no victory. The only weapon of our Arab brothers is that of solidarity. When the Arabs find and achieve this weapon of solidarity, be confident that the victory is near, and it must be near.

Criticizes U.S.

NC141512 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Speech delivered by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan at a ceremony in the town of 'Alayh on 14 March to commemorate the late Lebanese deputy and leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, Kamal Junblatt -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Kamal Junblatt's name was linked with major Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian issue, and the broad lines of his stand on this issue were compatible with the overall Lebanese stand. Lebanon has been, still is, and will continue to be one of the vanguard supporters of the first Arab cause -- the cause of Palestine.

Lebanon has given for the sake of Palestine what no other has given. Its present situation bears the harshest testimony to what it has given and offered; its arena is almost the only arena of struggle against the Zionist enemy and its green forest alone is being devoured by the fire of the major plot and subjected to the pressures of murder, destruction and explosions.

In the atmosphere of current Arab infighting, absence and fragmentation, the aim of the plot is to make of Lebanon the country of the second tragedy after Palestine, the country of the first tragedy. However, this struggling and steadfast country has been molded in such a way as to confront the fiercest and most unruly challenges with a genuine national passion, sublime national and pan-Arab responsibility and unlimited sacrifice for the Palestinian cause.

In this, Lebanon does not seek the gratitude of anyone because it is doing so out of a sincere belief and in pursuance of genuine pan-Arab course of action to ward off and confront a treacherous enemy who is no longer ashamed, who is now doing whatever he wishes, and who finds nothing to deter his bloody, aggressive and expansionist desire -- neither our Arab forces which are fragmented and fighting each other, nor the international forces which are hostile, retreating, affecting ignorance or lax.

As for the U.S. stand -- one should talk without embarrassment -- while the United States is sending one envoy after another to us, calling for rationality and pacification, it is sending Israel the most modern tools of destruction and murder and providing it with military, political and diplomatic cover in every field and on every level. We say this very openly and frankly: The United States, which is covering Israel in all its acts of aggression, its conquests, and its occupation of territories which have their own people and states, is responsible for the injustices to which the Arab people in general and the Lebanese and Palestinian people in particular are subjected. A cease-fire which it has participated in achieving will not exonerate it of its guilt toward us as long as it is the one that controls the aggressor, his arms, and his course of action. It will be cleared of its guilt toward us only if it abandons its support for him [the aggressor] and deters him from committing aggression against others -- which it is capable of doing [applause] -- and unless it helps toward the implementation of the UN resolutions, both by removing the aggression from the steadfast, yet threatened, southern Lebanon or by enabling the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and to establish their state over their soil. [applause]

As we search for a solution to our bloody tragedy, we find the the outlet only in a sincere and genuine national accord that can be achieved through Lebanese-Lebanese initiatives and with Arab support which we regard as our best and only option, particularly the support of fraternal Syria -- brother, neighbor and comrade in the confrontation, interests and fate. [applause]

The views Lebanon has expressed to the Followup Committee on Lebanon's Arab relations, particularly its relationship with fraternal Syria and the brother Palestinians, have been based on a genuine pan-Arab basis and on an option that has been dictated by historical, realistic and advantageous facts and events. We very frankly and openly say: No, no to any solution outside the Lebanese and Arab frameworks; no to any plot aimed at devouring our land and future; no to divisions, displacement and fragmentation. But yes -- a big and resounding yes -- to the unity of this homeland's territory and people; yes to the unity of this homeland's national forces which support legitimacy and which are against Israel; and yes to a healthy and sound Lebanon which is capable of achieving salvation and construction and establishing justice, balance and equality among its citizens.

'ARAFAT SPEAKS AT JUNBLATT MEMORIAL SERVICE

JN141607 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] The Lebanese and Palestinian people today are celebrating the fifth anniversary of the death of the Lebanese national leader Kamal Junblatt. Leaders of the Lebanese National Movement, the Palestinian revolution, diplomats and foreign delegations are participating in the popular festivities in 'Alayh. The festivities, sponsored by the president of the Lebanese National Movement, Walid Junblatt, and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, are a reminder of the pledge to Kamal Junblatt to safeguard southern Lebanon, prevent the partition of Lebanon and its falling into the hands of fascism and to protect the Palestinian revolution.

Speaking to those assembled, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat affirmed that the United States is the one which is starting the aggression under an Israeli cover. He stressed that it will be impossible for Israel to open a new Deversoir [site of Israeli attack on Suez Canal in 1973] in the Az-Zahrani area.

Lebanese National Movement Secretary General Muhsin Ibrahim affirmed the necessity for the cohesion of the Lebanese National Movement and for safeguarding its independent decision. He attacked those powers trying to engineer strikes in Lebanon.

Walid Junblatt, president of the Lebanese National Movement, affirmed the necessity of a unified national front and criticized the separate configuration of the Lebanese Army.

MINISTER SCORES ISRAEL'S WEST BANK POLICIES

NC122047 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Information Minister Michel Iddih this evening made a statement to Monte Carlo radio. He pointed out that Israel might stage an operation of the same magnitude as that of 1948 because Israel has reached an impasse in its relations with Egypt, particularly with regard to the plan for autonomy for the Palestinians.

Minister Iddih added that Israel hoped that through the Camp David agreements it would achieve conciliation [sulh] with all the Arab states, not only with Egypt. He said that Israel is trying to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip, after it had annexed the Golan, as an alternative card following its withdrawal from Sinai in April. He said for some time now Israel has been preparing Israeli and world public opinion for this matter.

The information minister also expressed his conviction that the situation will remain explosive until the date of withdrawal from Sinai, and that the U.S. administration is very concerned about having no aggressive action taken before that date.

Regarding U.S. envoy Philip Habib's tour, Minister Iddih said that the tour achieved comparative results. He finally pointed out that the legitimate [Government] in Lebanon has never plotted and will never plot against the Palestinian resistance.

FRENCH ENVOY STRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH LEBANON

NC141259 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] The French ambassador [to Lebanon] has made a statement to the Beirut English-language weekly MONDAY MORNING, emphasizing that any Israeli attack on southern Lebanon would be considered an attack on France. The ambassador said that French President Francois Mitterrand's recent visit to Israel and the French denunciation of any possible Israeli attack on Lebanon will have negative effects on the aggressor.

The French ambassador to Lebanon confirmed his government's support for Lebanese legitimacy. He said: We are concerned about Lebanon's independence. An interpretation of this stand shall be the unreserved support in the next few months for a constitutional solution and peaceful development in Lebanon through the coming presidential elections.

VOP DETAILS ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF TRUCE AGREEMENT

JN131632 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] According to the records of the joint forces in south Lebanon, Israeli forces committed 196 separate violations of the south Lebanon cease-fire during the period of August the 1st 1981 to March the 1st 1982. These include 28 artillery bombardments, 28 incidents of heavy machinegun fire, 3 incidents involving explosives, including the sinking of a ship this week in Tyre harbor, the destruction of 3 houses and 5 cases of kidnapping of Lebanese civilians.

During the same period, there were 68 Israeli overflights of Lebanon at low altitude, 35 cases of naval vessels patrolling close to the Lebanese coast from Tyre to Beirut and off Tripoli and 30 incidents of the fortification of military positions or the creation of new ones.

These speak for themselves, showing the extent to which Israel itself has flouted the south Lebanon cease-fire while all the while claiming that the PLO has failed to respect it. Any Israeli attack whose pretext is alleged PLO cease-fire violations, will be no more and no less than a continuation of this uninterrupted chain of Israeli aggressions against Lebanon and the Palestinians.

PHALANGIST COMMANDER 'THANKS' PLO FOR CAR BOMBS

NC110733 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Excerpt] There were two explosions in Az-Zuq and Al-Ma'amiltayn last night. In Az-Zuq, 10 persons were wounded and more than 20 vehicles were set on fire.

An unknown person has contacted some news media and claimed that an organization calling itself "the Eradication of Evil" declares its responsibility for the two crimes. However, the commander of the Lebanese forces has expressed his thanks to Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], of the Palestinian Fatah organization, for the two car bombs, hoping that he will one day return with them to Palestine.

PALESTINIAN SOURCE DENIES LINK TO BOMBINGS

NC111219 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] A responsible source in the Palestinian revolution has stated the following: Some isolationist sources have alleged that Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] was connected with the explosions in the eastern area of Beirut last night.

The Palestinian revolution wishes to confirm that neither the revolution nor one of its officials have any connection with these explosions. The revolution has previously declared its rejection and denouncement of such criminal actions, whether these took place in the eastern or western parts of Beirut or in any other area in Lebanon.

We would like to draw the attention of our brother Lebanese throughout the country to the fact that linking the name of any of our brother officials in the Palestinian revolution to such criminal actions aims at covering up the suspect plan which the Zionist enemy and his agents are seeking to implement in the Lebanese arena, using the explosions as a means to implement his plans in the Lebanese territory.

The Palestinian revolution, which possesses firm evidence of the Zionist enemy collusion with his agents in the criminal explosions plan, particularly the evidence which the Palestinian revolution revealed after the recent explosion in 'Ayn al-Hulwah in Sidon, calls on the masses in Lebanon to be alert and cautious.

The Palestinian revolution and the sincere forces in the Lebanese arena will continue their efforts to maintain security and stability in Lebanon so as to direct all efforts to resist the Zionist enemy and his plots which are aimed against all the Lebanese and the Palestinians as well as against the existence and future of the Arab nation.

KUWAITI DIPLOMATS, FAMILIES LEAVE LEBANON

NC112115 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] The intensity of the signs of fear and intimidation has increased with the departure of Arab diplomats. It has become difficult to provide protection for these diplomats in areas which are not controlled by the legitimate authorities. Kuwait has recalled its ambassador in Lebanon and two of its diplomats and their families until further notice without notifying the Lebanese Foreign Ministry. It has been said that this step was made as a result of the Kuwaiti-Syrian disagreement. Will [Arab League secretary general] Chedli Klibi, who is due in Lebanon tomorrow night, be able to resolve the disagreement and thus enable the Arab Followup Committee to resume meeting in Beirut after the suspension of activities at the level of ministers and ambassadors for 3 months?

Jordan Closes Embassy

NC141620 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] The Kuwaiti Government considers that its recall of its ambassador in Beirut, along with the embassy diplomats, will continue in effect until the reasons prompting their recall disappear. Amman has followed in Kuwait's footsteps and closed its Beirut embassy after recalling its last diplomat. Amman has also closed the offices of the Jordanian news agency, PETRA. The Voice of Lebanon learned today that Jordan is inclined to halt Alia Airline's flights to Beirut soon.

HADDAD THREATENS TO SHELL SYRIAN CASTLE POST

NC120857 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Major Haddad added that Free Lebanon Forces will shell the castle even if the UNIFIL places an observation post in it. Major Haddad explained that even if fire is not opened at his forces' positions from the castle, he will be compelled to shell it because it constitutes the front line for the saboteurs and the point they use to increase the precision of their aim.

USSR AIR CHIEF CONCLUDES VISIT, DEPARTS

JN121920 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1100 today Marshal Kutakhov, commander in chief of the USSR Air Force and deputy minister of defense. The meeting was attended by Maj Gen Subhi Haddad, commander of the Syrian Air Force and air defense, and Vladimir Yukhin, USSR ambassador in Damascus.

Marshal Kutakhov delivered to the president a letter from the USSR leadership.

Marshal Kutakhov and his delegation left Damascus today at the conclusion of a visit to Syria that lasted several days. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by the commander of the Syrian Air Force and air defense, a number of officers, the USSR ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

MONTE CARLO ON AL-ASAD'S WARNING TO ISRAEL

JN130635 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Yesterday Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad warned Israel of the consequences of any aggression against southern Lebanon. Suhayl 'Abd as-Salam will summarize President al-Asad's statement:

In an interview with British television yesterday, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad stated that a new Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon will mean war with Syria. The Syrian president also said that Syria may be capable of striking Israel, recalling that the Arabs succeeded in repulsing colonial crusaders after a struggle of over 100 years. Why cannot we repulse the Israeli invaders? On the other hand, the Syrian president stressed that Syria will do everything possible to prevent the situation in the Middle East from becoming the cause of a world war. The Arab people, however, are a people whose rights and lands have been usurped. Like all other people on earth, we cannot but struggle with all the means we have to regain these usurped rights and land.

On the internal situation after the Hamah incidents, the Syrian president said that the situation has returned to normal.

AL-BA'TH COMMENTS ON KHADDAM'S TALKS IN IRAN

JN150931 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 15 Mar (SANA) -- In an article entitled "Syria and Iranian Revolution in One Trench," AL-BA'TH here today says: The visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to Tehran and his talks with officials in the Iranian revolution take place within the framework of consolidating bilateral relations and the front hostile to U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

The paper refers to U.S. imperialism's attempts to put pressure on the Iranian revolution, obstruct its revolutionary course and create problems and hardships for it and asserts that the Iranian revolution has strongly supported the Arab people's just cause as part of the common struggle.

AL-BA'TH adds: With the intensification of the U.S. imperialist onslaught on Iran, relations have strengthened between the steadfast Arab countries and the Iranian revolution, which has devoted all its resources in support of Arab rights and stood with the Arabs in the frontline trench in order to liberate Arab territory and regain Arab rights.

Referring to the war waged by Saddam Husayn against the Iranian revolution to abort this revolution and divert Arab attention from the main battle with the Zionist enemy, the paper says: Washington discovered that its vested interests in the region called for more direct support for Saddam's war. So, it manipulated Jordan's Husayn, who immediately dispatched his volunteers to protect Washington's oil interests and preoccupy Iran so it couldn't use its resources in support of the Arab cause.

AL-BA'TH asserts that Syrian-Iranian talks constitute a major step on a clear road to build a steadfast front and to strengthen the common struggle against one enemy.

The paper concludes by saying: Undoubtedly, the bilateral talks will culminate in success and the Syrian delegation's visit will achieve the desired results. Iran has already announced that it is determined to strengthen and develop its relations with revolutionary Syria in all fields.

DISSIDENT IRAQI BA'TH COMMAND ISSUES STATEMENT

JN131514 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 13 Mar (SANA) -- The Iraqi Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has condemned the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against Syria which is being implemented by the Muslim Brotherhood gang supported by the regimes of treason in Baghdad and Amman.

In a statement issued here today, the Iraqi Command of the Ba'th Party indicated that the internal and external plots against Syria are aimed at weakening Syria's internal front and its national progressive regime under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its secretary general Comrade Hafiz al-Asad. The statement added that by such plots the conspirators want to destroy Syria's revolutionary will, peddle capitulatory schemes and subjugate the Arab region to imperialist and Zionist hegemony.

The statement also condemned the plots being concocted against the 1 September revolution in fraternal Libya by U.S. imperialism and agent regimes in Egypt and Sudan with the aim of keeping Libya away from the central Arab battle of liberating Palestine and destroying the imperialist-Zionist influence in our Arab region.

The statement pointed out that our people in Iraq are living in a bitter predicament due to the policies and methods practiced by the regime of traitor and agent Saddam Husayn as represented in the persecution, treason, murder, assassination and displacement that have become characteristic of this clique in its sway over our struggling people.

The statement condemned the destructive war to which the heroic Iraqi Army was led by tyrant Saddam Husayn, supported by the agent Arab regimes in Jordan, Egypt and Sudan, with the aim of squandering Arab potentials and disrupting joint Arab efforts which were supposed to serve the fateful Arab causes.

Addressing all the national and progressive strata and forces of the proud Iraqi people, the statement stressed that the Iraqi Command of the Ba'th Party stands by their side shoulder to shoulder and hand to hand, sharing their pain and suffering and telling them that the only way to rescue Iraq from this predicament is to level all weapons against the tyrant and his clique for the sake of liberating Iraq from terror and treason and leading it back to the progressive line.

The statement stressed the Iraqi people's determination to pursue their revolutionary struggle to topple the fascist regime, place Iraq's potentials at the service of the Arab nation's battles and establish a progressive Arab unity expressing the aspirations of the Arab masses.

JORDANIAN POPULAR COMMITTEES CONDEMN REGIME

JN131714 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Beirut, 13 Mar (SANA) -- The March Popular Committees [Iijan 'Athar ash-sha'biyah] in Jordan have condemned the agent royal regime's oppressive and suppressive measures against the nationalist and democratic militants.

In a statement issued here today, the committees asserted that the agent royal regime is staging a campaign against many of our people. The regime has also summoned a number of citizens to the security centers, withdrawn their passports and prevented them from traveling.

The statement says that this campaign, staged by the agent royal regime's organs against our masses in Jordan, comes as a result of the national and popular rejection of the farce of the agent king's call for volunteering to support the fascist Iraqi regime's conspiratorial war against Iran.

The statement adds that this campaign is doomed to failure and will not be able to silence our people nor bridle the masses' struggle against the regime and all its exposed tricks.

The statement urges all the national Arab and world forces to raise their voices high in order to expose the royal regime's oppressive and terrorist practices, to ensure democratic liberties for the Jordanian masses and to secure the release of all nationalist detainees in Jordanian prisons.

GUNFIRE IN HAMAH, TENSION ON IRAQI BORDER

NC121319 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Some 2,000 bodies have been uncovered from the rubble of the city of Hamah. A Syrian Army major and his brother were killed in the city of Aleppo and tension prevails on the Syrian-Iraqi border.

We have received reports that rescue teams are still working in the destroyed city of Hamah, where 2,000 bodies have been uncovered. Syrian Army bulldozers have been seen bulldozing four mosques and a church at the entrance of the city, most of whose population has been homeless following the destruction of their homes and the departure of the people to the township of Suran, where they are living in tents.

The reports say gunfire can still be heard in Hamah, and the military airport in the city is the scene of clashes between the special units and Muslim Brotherhood members.

In the meantime, we have learned that the areas of Karm Muyassar, Al-Quntari and Al-Kurah al-Ardiyah in the city of Aleppo are still under siege and threatened with shelling because Muslim Brotherhood members accused of killing a major from the As-Sawwaf family and his brother refuse to surrender.

We have received information to the effect that the Syrian-Iraqi border is witnessing acute tension that has prompted the people of the area to leave for fear of worse developments.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES FORMER LEBANESE PREMIER

JN111744 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1330 today former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Talks during the meeting centered on political and security aspects of the Lebanese situation and on the National Front, on which contacts are continuing among Lebanese forces and personalities.

Talks also dealt with regional developments and the successive plots faced by the Arabs as a result of U.S. and Israeli schemes and the need for continued and close cooperation among all the national Arab forces so as to confront this conspiratorial offensive.

BEGIN TO PRESIDE OVER 14 MARCH CABINET SESSION

TA131942 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Tomorrow Prime Minister Menahem Begin will once again begin presiding over Cabinet sessions. Tomorrow's session is scheduled to discuss next week's talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali in the framework of the supreme Israeli-Egyptian normalization relations committee. Our political correspondent, Elimelekh Ram, reports that Israel will make it clear that the border demarcation must be completed even before the final withdrawal and that the withdrawal depends on this demarcation.

SINAI BORDER DEMARCATION MUST BE SET BY 26 APRIL

TA140529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] A discussion will be held in Jerusalem today on the dispute with Egypt over the border demarcation in the Elat area. The consultation will be held on the eve of Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali's arrival in Israel for 2 days of deliberations by the supreme committee for normalization affairs and for the completion of the Sinai withdrawal.

Our political correspondent reports that Israel has recently made it clear to Cairo again that it insists on completing the border demarcation before 26 April; otherwise -- so it was hinted -- Israel will not complete the withdrawal. Our correspondent has learned that urgent contacts were held between the two countries on this matter. Israel's Ambassador to Egypt Moshe Sason conferred with the Egyptian foreign minister and sent an urgent report to Jerusalem afterwards. Egypt proposes that for the time being the disputed area be turned into a neutral area and that the border not be marked there or that an appeal for international arbitration be made.

EGYPTIAN DEMARCATION PROPOSAL TO BE REJECTED

TA141734 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1717 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] In preparation for the visit by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Israel will reject Egypt's proposal according to which the dispute over the border demarcation in the Elat area will be solved by international arbitration. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that this evening a ministerial consultation, headed by the prime minister, is scheduled to be held before Kamal Hasan 'Ali's arrival tomorrow for 2 days of deliberations as a part of the supreme committee for normalization in the relations between the two countries.

At a consultation Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon held this morning at the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry, it was decided that Israel would insist in the talks on the fact that Israelis will be able to use the installations in the Tabah region near Elat without any restrictions by the Egyptians. The defense minister has announced that the work of the normalization committee will be concluded on 26 April and after the completion of the withdrawal, only Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and experts from the Foreign Ministry will deal with this issue.

MUBARAK WILL NOT VISIT ISRAEL BEFORE WITHDRAWAL

TA140952 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Mar 82 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will probably not visit Israel before the completion of the Sinai withdrawal.

In political contacts held with Egypt recently it has become clear that the Egyptian president does not intend to hold a visit in Israel in the coming month.

MINISTER SHAMIR COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

TA121624 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1550 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Tel Aviv, 12 Mar -- The imminent evacuation of the Sinai is a traumatic test for the people of Israel, but it is also a great trial for Egypt and the Egyptian people, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this afternoon when he appeared on the "YOMAN HASHAVU'A Stage" in Tel Aviv's Diplomat Hotel.

Mr Shamir noted that so far it was possible to attribute every step undertaken by the Egyptians -- beginning with the signing of the peace agreement up to the exchange of ambassadors and normalization -- to the need to retrieve all the large territories of the Sinai Peninsula.

"However, after it receives all of the Sinai, the real test will come and we will see whether indeed a true peace has been achieved, and Egypt will have to prove to us and to the entire world that it is faithful to its international commitments." "We, too, for our part, will pay extra attention to see whether or not the Egyptians pass this test," the foreign minister announced. Mr Shamir added: "After all, what could happen if someone fails the test? Then great disappointment is to be expected by a people that has been wronged. This might cause a tremor, but I hope this will not happen," he said.

At the same time, the foreign minister said that "from all we read and feel, it is permissible and reasonable to believe that the peace which the Egyptian people have pledged to maintain is not an outcome of the capriciousness of a charismatic leader, but rather an expression of that people's vital interest." "They tell us they cannot even envisage a reason to violate their commitments in regard to this peace," he said.

Mr Shamir emphasized that differences still remain with Egypt, particularly over autonomy. "But as the French president said, where can one find two nations that do not have problems or differences? This is a normal state of affairs. There is only one fundamental change, he said: That differences should be resolved by peace, not through war.

The foreign minister added that after long years during which Israel had been underestimated and ignored, Europe presently understands that this is useless and that a dialogue should be held with Israel, that discussions should be conducted with it, its views must be listened to and an atmosphere should be created that will make possible a friendly exchange of views and allow differences of opinion possibly to decrease. He said that all the welcoming ceremonies and receptions held for the leaders of Arab terrorism in the capitals of many countries throughout the world and the legitimate status granted to killers of Jews on whose banner is inscribed the motto of the annihilation of Israel will not cover up the total failure of those organizations.

"None of those actions or gestures will help them get nearer to their foul target by even one centimeter," he declared. In his opening statements, Mr Shamir urged the opponents of the Sinai withdrawal to cease carrying out useless acts of opposition, which are to no avail against a resolution passed by a large majority of the Knesset and the people. "The decision was made and there is no alternative but to implement it," he said. "There is no political way to renege on this resolution."

MK Roni Milo, the chief editor of the new weekly, YOMAN HASHAVU'A [WEEKLY BULLETIN], announced that the first issue will be published on 30 March.

He said this will be a news weekly "whose line will be close to the positions of the nationalist bloc," and it will present the country in "the true and reliable light, emphasizing the positive aspects of our lives." He said the weekly will be 96 pages long and will include a lot of material on matters of policy, society, culture and sports. It will also feature other columns. He announced that the "YOMAN HASHAVU'A stage" will be held once a month and will host a Cabinet member who will speak about that part of the government policy for which he is in charge.

BEN-ELISAR COMMENTS ON EGYPT'S AIMS AFTER APRIL

TA121137 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Mar 82 p 1 weekly supplement

[Commentary by chairman of Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar]

[Text] After the completion of the withdrawal from the Sinai, Egypt's aim will be to reach an agreement on the autonomy with Israel on Egypt's terms while maintaining peace between the two countries.

Egypt will be influenced by the following constraints: President Mubarak's perception of the need to strengthen his rule over Egypt, his wish to resume relations between Egypt and other Arab countries, gradually returning Egypt to its traditional role as leader of the Arab world; improving relations with the Soviet Union and the East bloc while maintaining the special relations As-Sadat established with the United States.

The terms presented by Egypt in the negotiations on the autonomy to date are so far from meeting Israel's minimum demands that there are no chances of reaching an agreement. In order to drive Israel to lower its minimum demands, Egypt will do its best to bring international pressure on us to make far-reaching concessions.

Therefore, Egypt will make every possible effort not to arouse Washington's suspicions by making too hasty a rapprochement with certain Arab countries on the one hand and to the communist world on the other. At the same time, however, it will steer its relations with them in such a way that the United States will become highly and sufficiently suspicious of the Egyptian pendulum policy as to urge Israel to make concessions on the autonomy issue under the slogan of keeping Egypt within the area of U.S. influence.

Egypt will make its policy of normalization with Israel dependent -- as it has done to date -- on its needs in the negotiations over the autonomy and on the constraints Mubarak will be confronted with as a result of changes in his domestic and foreign policies. One should not forget that while in the eyes of Israelis the normalization reflects the contents of the peace, the Egyptians merely use it as an instrument for conducting their foreign policy: They accelerate it or slow it down as they see fit.

Israel will have to prevail upon Egypt that it should not overstretch the rope on the issue of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. The evacuation of the Sinai does not weaken our bargaining power since it is inconceivable that we should agree to reduce the extent of our rule over western Eretz Yisra'el -- especially not after we have given up the Sinai -- thus paying an extra price for the peace for which we have already paid such a heavy price.

This will also be the gist of our argument with the United States. It is essential that the United States hears from us and realizes as soon as possible that Israel will not be able to make any concessions in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip beyond its concessions to date without harming its security and future.

If the assumption is right that peace between Israel and Egypt will continue after 26 April, then whatever happens between the two countries will be through political and diplomatic means and no longer through violence.

This is the essential difference between the current peace relations and the state of war that formerly existed between Israel and Egypt.

DUDIN CHARGES SAUDI ARABIA PRESSURED JORDAN

JN121836 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 12 Mar 82

[From "With the Events" program]

[Excerpts] Some light was shed this week on the five village leagues in the West Bank in the wake of the threats made by Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The village league members have strongly rejected these threats and held protest rallies against the Jordanian prime minister's threats. Prime Minister Begin today received Mustafa Dudin, head of the Hebron District village league. During the meeting, the prime minister reiterated the government's support for the village leagues in the West Bank in their endeavors to promote services for the inhabitants of these villages. Ladies and gentlemen: We have now on the line the head of the Hebron District village league, Mustafa Dudin:

[Begin recording] [Question] Good evening, Mr Dudin. We heard that you met today with Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Can you give us an idea of the topics that were dealt with at the meeting?

[Answer] In view of the Amman government's hostile attitude toward the village leagues in the West Bank and in view of the clear-cut course these leagues are now pursuing, it was incumbent upon us to reconsider the 1982-83 budget in order to ask for increased allocations to enable us to implement the projects of the 5-year plan. I explained the situation to the prime minister. Actually, the prime minister is well aware of the details and has promised to work to double these allocations so that these villages can execute all the necessary 5-year plan projects.

[Question] Certainly the Jordanian Government's threats were raised at this meeting. What is Mr Begin's stand on these threats?

[Answer] Actually I did not raise this issue because it is impolite to talk about a topic in front of a prime minister who is well aware of his responsibilities.

[Question] Let us go back to the Jordanian threats. What has prompted Mudar Badran to level threats against the village leagues in the West Bank?

[Answer] I have been told, and I believe it is true, that a person from the West Bank accompanied Yasir 'Arafat on his visit to Saudi Arabia. They met with Saudi Prince Fahd and urged him to bring pressure to bear on the Jordanian Government to issue this statement. Saudi Arabia has covertly hinted that it might halt its aid to Jordan if it did not make such a statement. This is the real motivator because no one would voluntarily take such a step.

[Question] Mr Dudin: Do you think these threats will influence the village leagues in the West Bank?

[Answer] Absolutely not. Actually, these have caused adverse effects. I can see now that the leagues are attracting more and more people. I do not know if these people feel that the leagues have been unjustly treated by the Amman government and the PLO. But they do feel that the leagues are the sole institutions which are rendering services to them.

[Question] We heard that there was a rally today in Az-Zahiriyah in support of the Hebron district village league. Can you give more details on this rally?

[Answer] Actually the villagers are urging us to attend rallies in support of the league. Yesterday, we attended a rally in Bayt 'Awwa. And today in Az-Zahiriyah. Other rallies will take place in the Hebron villages to support the league and to denounce the Amman government's step.

[Question] What about the meeting which will be held tomorrow by the Bethlehem village league?

[Answer] The heads of the village leagues will hold a conference tomorrow in Bethlehem to study the ultimatum issued by the Jordanian prime minister and to take the necessary steps and issue statements in reply to this hostile step.

[Announcer] Thank you Mr Dudin. [end recording]

JORDAN INCREASES ATTACKS ON VILLAGE LEAGUES

TA121717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Jordan has stepped up its propaganda against the area village leagues in Judaea and Samaria. This is reported by our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari. This afternoon, Amman radio broadcast a special program denouncing these village leagues, featuring Minister for Land Affairs Hasan Ibrahim, deported Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi and the editor of the Semi-official newspaper AD-DUSTUR, Mahmud Sharif. All three strongly attacked the area village leagues and Fahd al-Qawasimi said they constitute a danger to the PLO. Our correspondent notes that Jordan may have allowed Al-Qawasimi to make this statement over Amman radio in order to drag the PLO, too, into a confrontation with Israel over the area village leagues and relieve Jordan of its solitude in waging this struggle.

BEGIN PROMISES VILLAGE LEAGUE LEADER ECONOMIC AID

TA121842 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] The head of the village league in the Hebron area, Mustafa Dudin, says he had the promise of increased financial support from Prime Minister Begin. Dudin met this morning with the prime minister and afterwards said the discussion centered on financial issues in view of the approaching end of the current fiscal year. Dudin told reporter Jerry Cheslow that the village leagues need additional Israel funds. Dudin said Jordanian warnings that league members will be tried for treason meant that funds once available from Jordan for certain leagues projects will now be withheld.

Further Details

TA141132 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Mar 82 p 6

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Excerpt] The threats issued and the boycott imposed by Jordan on the Judaea and Samaria area village leagues call for increased economic aid to them and it was learned yesterday that an increase of 20 to 25 percent is expected in their budget in the coming fiscal year. The issue of financial aid to the area village leagues was raised by Hebron's Mustafa Dudin in the meeting he held with the prime minister last Friday. He explained his request of Begin by the fact that today the village leagues have no source of aid other than Israel.

It was learned from government sources yesterday that even without Dudin's request for increased aid it was clear to the Civilian Administration that it is necessary to significantly raise the budget of the village leagues. Until a few days ago the sums discussed were around 600 million shekels to be distributed in the following manner: a little over 1/3 to the Hebron district and the rest to the four districts of Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nanin and Tulkarm. The Civilian Administration is now considering a significant addition to the budget in order to strengthen the existing area village leagues and to lay the foundations for at least one more league.

ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTED AGAINST VILLAGE LEADER

TA131214 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] An assassination attempt was last night perpetrated against Fikri 'Isa the head of the area village league in Baytuniya in the Ramallah district, reports our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari. Security sources say that nobody was hit. Unknown people opened automatic arms fire at his house, his guards returned the fire and the attackers left the area. Up till recently, Fikri 'Isa had been known as a leading Jordanian supporter in the Ramallah district but over the last few weeks Jordan has brought its full weight to bear against the activities of the area village leagues.

Suspects Detained

TA131713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Three suspects have been arrested in Baytuniyah in connection with the shots fired at the home of the local area village league leader, Fikri 'Isa. The curfew on the village has been lifted. The assassination attempt took place last night after midnight. His bodyguards returned the fire and the assailants fled.

W. BANK'S DUDIN INTERVIEWED ON JORDANIAN WARNING

TA131326 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1220 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Let us go over to Jordan's ultimatum to village league members in Judeaea and Samaria. Jordan has given them a month to quit the leagues or face the death penalty for treason. The heads of the five village leagues and many of their followers gathered in Bethlehem this morning to discuss the ultimatum. The head of the largest league, Hebron's Mustafa Dudin, maintains their aim is to serve the villagers who have not received a fair share of the aid from the Arab countries. More radical elements in the territories see the leagues as collaborating with Israel. In this interview with Jerry Cheslow, Mustafa Dudin reveals who he thinks is behind the Jordanian ultimatum.

[Begin recording] [Cheslow] Mustafa Dudin says that he has secret information that Saudi Arabia forced Jordan to impose the ban on the village leagues.

[Dudin] I have news that Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia, after a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat and somebody from the West Bank here, from Nabulus, (?make influence) on the Jordanian Government to issue this order and he warned them that he will stop his financial aid if they did not obey his instructions.

[Question] The head of the Hebron area village league lashed out at the Amman government saying that it had no authority over the West Bank. This because it had renounced all claims to the territory at the 1974 Rabat Arab summit which named the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians. He also maintained that the Amman government, in the financial aid it received from the oil states, was the main beneficiary of the Palestinians' disaster. Dudin, who has often said that he favored a federation between the West Bank and the east bank of the Jordan, said that a new situation had now been created.

[Answer] My loyalty before everything to my home and my people. When I am sure that King Husayn is doing for [words indistinct] of our people I will accept. (?But when) I see his government declaring war against my people I will stand opposite them and I will fight against them.

[Question] Dudin felt that the Jordanian threat against village league members must be taken seriously.

[Answer] Their way -- the PLO and Amman -- to achieve their aims, their terrorism, murder, assassination and all such a crime, and they will try all their best to do such things. [as heard]

[Question] Dudin disclosed that he had sent a message to Jordan's King Husayn, to try and resolve the dispute before it destroyed the possibility of reconciliation between the two banks of the Jordan River. On his meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Begin the village league leader said that he had called on Israel to increase aid to the leagues.

[Answer] I asked them to increase the budget for these villages because we have no financial aid from the Arab states, and his excellency promised to do that.

[Cheslow] The sum requested was 400 million shekels and Begin promised to discuss this with the finance minister. On another matter Begin had informed Dudin on his autonomy discussions with U.S. envoy. [end recording]

VILLAGE LEAGUES SUPPORTED BY ARAB PRISONERS

TA050718 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Excerpts] The Jordanian parliament will discuss today the question of the area village leagues in Judaea and Samaria. In the meantime, a group of Arab security detainees in Israeli jails which had seceded from the PLO some time ago and which is called the National Palestinian Movement for Peace in the Territories has announced full support for the village leagues. Our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria, Arye Gus, is in the studio to report on this.

[Gus -- live] Faruq Muhammad Salamah, the movement's secretary imprisoned in Ashqelon, has signed the manifesto released by this movement. In the manifesto, which reached the editorial desk of AL-ANBA', the members of the movement reject the threats by Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran and ask King Husayn not to damage the relations between the Arabs living along the two sides of the Jordan. One should not exaggerate the importance of this group, which consists of a few dozen security prisoners. However, this is the first public call for support of the village leagues and hence, the manifesto gives an additional dimension to events in the territories now.

At the end of a rally held by the village league leaders in Bethlehem yesterday, Mustafa Dudin, the head of the Hebron village league said that Jordan no longer has the power to control Judaea and Samaria. The village league members condemned Jordan for making gains from the Palestinian tragedy and in a series of decisions they called on the world public to save them from terrorism. They called upon the Israeli citizens to reach a fair solution with the Palestinian people.

The angry reactions heard in the territories about the ban imposed on the existence of the National Guidance Committee were accompanied by angry reactions in Jordan against the village leagues. Jordanian media continue to attack the village leagues and today the National Assembly, a parliament-like body in Jordan, is to discuss the issue of the area village leagues.

HEBRON AREA VILLAGE LEAGUE MEMBER RESIGNS

TA141014 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] A member of the Dayr Samit village council, Isma'il Khalil 'Adil (Fath) has withdrawn from the Hebron area village league and from his position in the council. The head of the Hebron area village league, Mustafa Dudin, said in reaction that 'Adil (Fath)'s withdrawal is not important since he is known as a Jordan loyalist. According to Dudin, it is to be expected that another five Jordan loyalists will withdraw from the league. Jordanian television yesterday carried sharp attacks on the village leagues and a discussion on this issue is expected in Jordan's National Assembly.

More League Resignations

TA151018 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Nine more members resigned today from the Samaria area village league; six from the village of Dayr Samit and three from the village of Bayt Awwa. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari notes that to date 11 members have resigned from the Hebron league. From a number of them, the Military Government took away the seal of mukhtar. Jordan has charged a special committee with the task of working out a plan of action against the area village leagues in Judaea and Samaria, and has intensified its attacks against the leagues in radio and television broadcasts.

W. BANK NOTABLE HELPED TO PRESSURE JORDAN

TA141215 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned that one of the personages who influenced Jordan into changing its policy toward the area village leagues was Hikmat al-Masri from Nabulus. More than a week ago Al-Masri visited Saudi Arabia together with Yasir 'Arafat and the two persuaded Crown Prince Fahd to pressure Jordan into taking a stand against the village leagues.

JOINT ISRAELI-U.S. COMMITTEE ON LEBANON PROPOSED

TA140617 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Today the prime minister will preside over the Cabinet meeting, and the ministers may receive a report on the talks held with U.S. envoy Philip Habib last week. Our political correspondent has learned that the prime minister proposed last week that a permanent joint Israeli-U.S. committee be set up to discuss the situation in Lebanon. This issue will shortly be brought up for a decision in a ministerial consultation.

BEGIN, SHARON EXPRESS CONCERN OVER LEBANON

TA141511 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Jerusalem is concerned about the continuation of the terrorists' activity against Israel and the continuation of their reinforcement and deployment in southern Lebanon. As for the attempt to attack the kindergarten in Holon, Menahem Begin said at the Cabinet session that this was yet another record in the chain of activities the terrorists have recently carried out. The defense minister believes that the terrorists in Lebanon are working under Soviet indoctrination, with Saudi Arabian financing and under U.S. cover. In his view, U.S. envoy Philip Habib has not made any progress in his tours of the area, he has only caused harm to Israel; this is because his tours create expectations and bind Israel's hands in its desire to defend the lives of its citizens. The Cabinet will soon hold a special discussion on the various aspects of what is occurring in Lebanon.

IDF SPOKESMAN DENIES SHELLING S. LEBANON 10 MAR

TA140816 Jerusalem POST in English 14 Mar 82 p 2

[Text] Metulla -- The IDF spokesman yesterday categorically denied allegations that the IDF had shelled targets near the Al-Hazbani River in south Lib'a on last Wednesday. He also dismissed as baseless an announcement broadcast on Lebanon's Phalange radio that the IDF had moved troops into the area near 'Urqub and Shab'a in south Lebanon.

Military sources in the north said that the report of the shelling near the Al-Hazbani was designed by the terrorists as a provocation and to legitimize new terrorist attacks from south Lebanon. Maj Sa'd Haddad, leader of the Christian forces in south Lebanon yesterday warned the UNIFIL command not to establish an outpost at the terrorist-held Beaufort Castle. He cautioned that UN troops posted there could be injured in any Christian shelling of the terrorist position. UNIFIL pulled its troops out of the Beaufort Castle outpost in 1979, following heavy exchanges of artillery fire.

Haddad also confirmed that Syrian troops are stationed at a lookout post at Beaufort Castle and that plans are being made to add more Syrian troops there. In New York, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Friday asked France, Ireland, Fiji, Ghana, Nepal, Norway and Italy to send more troops to the UN force in southern Lebanon to build it up from 6,000 to 7,000, following the Security Council's approval of the reinforcements on Thursday.

MAJOR HADDAD REVIEWS SITUATION IN S. LEBANON

TA140910 Jerusalem POST in English 14 Mar 82 p 6

[Article by Ze'ev Schul: "Listening to Haddad"]

[Excerpts] The PLO's latest arms acquisitions in southern Lebanon include Soviet-made long-range guns. They can fire 180 mm., shells some 44 km., bringing Haifa's northern suburbs, not to mention 'Akko and Nahariyya or other urban areas in central and eastern Galilee, within "harassing range."

Speaking to foreign correspondents in Metulla recently, Maj Sa'd Haddad, who commands the Christian militia in their self-styled "Free Lebanon", in the south, estimated that the PLO now has a line-up of some 300 pieces of assorted artillery, not counting Katyushas, grad missiles or mortars. And, the major disclosed, the PLO may have helicopters under shrouds. It should be recalled that the PLO during the past two years of so has become increasingly airminded. Bizarre attacks against Israel included attempts to hedgehop into the country by hot air balloons and, when this failed, using para-wing gliders with auxiliary engines.

It isn't only the PLO build-up that is worrying the major. He accuses the 6,000 strong UNIFIL force of being first and foremost concerned with their own safety. The buffer of Senegalese, Fiji, Nepalese and Irish units are ineffective. "A thousand men -- behaving the way soldiers should behave -- should have been able to preserve peace and order and prevented the PLO from making incursions and maintaining 'presences' within the areas entrusted to their safekeeping." As one example, he cited the case of a French unit given a vital bridge to guard. The PLO didn't hesitate to attack, and the French withdrew. That bridge, the major noted, is still in PLO hands, and it controls traffic between Beirut and Sidon.

No less upsetting is what happened to the so-called "iron triangle" area, the central ridges between the coast and the Hermon foothills. Ostensibly under UNIFIL control, the area has been infiltrated by the PLO. Some 600 of its men are believed to be entrenched in this area.

Following Haddad's complaint to UNIFIL Commander Gen William Callaghan some PLO units were withdrawn but Haddad believes the move was for "demonstration purposes" only; in effect the PLO men remain where they were or merely moved off the main traffic arteries, ready to man their positions at short notice. "We aren't fooled," Major Haddad said.

The iron triangle area has also seen a recent outbreak of fighting between Shi'ite villagers and the PLO. "The UNIFIL units simply ducked," said Haddad. So did the so-called 'Lebanese Army' units stationed in the area. The exception were the Senegalese. They intervened -- in favour of the PLO." Major Haddad recalled that he has repeatedly asked for that unit to be replaced. He considers it hostile and he said, "its officers receive monthly payments from the PLO."

Haddad is particularly bitter about the role played by the "Lebanese Army under orders from what he calls "occupied Beirut." "The Syrians say they are here to aid the Palestinians revolution. If they are so eager, why don't they take some of this revolution and the revolutionaries into their own country? All they want is to annex our country."

"Does the world want us ("Free Lebanon") to be like the rest of the country or Beirut, where Muslims are fighting Christians and both are righting the PLO and the Syrians? This is only part of Lebanon where Lebanese can live in freedom and share their joys and sorrows, as they always did, but nobody cares. "Even in the eyes of the pope and the Vatican, we are expendable. What does it matter if another few thousand die, even though we are Catholics? The Vatican is too busy meddling in high politics to bother about us.

"The Russian delegate to the UN said that Major Haddad and his men should withdraw. To where? I am from Marj 'Uyun. I was born there. My father was born there. His father, too, and his father before him. They are all there. In the cemetery. Why should I go? "Let the strangers go. All we want is a Lebanon ruled by Lebanese. I don't care who does the ruling."

ARENS INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

TA121306 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Mar 82, pp 4-6 weekly supplement

[Interview with Ambassador Moshe Arens by Yosef Per'el at the ambassador's office in Washington -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] What are the prospects for the Jordanian arms deal that is now in the works?

[Answer] "I would not discount the possibility that the Jordanian deal will be submitted to Congress and even approved. It will have supporters in Washington. I still hope that the opponents will be in a majority, so that we will not get involved in an AWCS-like conflict. I hope the administration reaches the conclusion that the deal does not benefit the United States; otherwise, we shall have to start a publicity campaign against such a deal."

[Question] Is the U.S. administration in fact exerting pressure on Israel to refrain from making raids into Lebanon?

[Answer] I know nothing about that and I felt no pressures of any kind. In all the talks I conducted here, the Americans were trying to present their views and to persuade, but without hinting of any measures beyond that or threatening to impose sanctions. I never heard, even once, statements like: 'What will happen if'."

[Question] Do you agree with those who say that after the April withdrawal the U.S. administration will abandon the Camp David process?

[Answer] "The declared U.S. position is, of course, adherence to Camp David. I do not think that in a democratic country like the United States there can be a wide gap between the declared and the actual position. Hence, I do not believe the position will change significantly. At this stage we have no reason to doubt that the United States is committed only to the Camp David process."

[Question] In your talks with administration officials did the renewal of the memorandum of strategic understanding arise?

[Answer] "No."

[Question] On assuming office, you said you would give yourself good marks if the positions of both sides are understood in the two capitals. Are the difficulties in the relations caused only by misunderstandings, or is there a more substantial gap between Israel and the United States?

[Answer] "We have problems with misunderstandings, as well as with disagreement. When you have such a wide scope of issues, it is difficult to avoid misunderstandings, and this includes issues that have been described as 'surprises.' Surprises indicate that basic positions of the opposite party have not been understood. In my opinion, this can be prevented with the help of close relations. I am trying to transmit to Israel, as best as I can, the U.S. positions as they are being presented to me."

[Question] The military procurement issue raises the question of future U.S. aid to Israel. The U.S. administration's proposal for the next fiscal year constitutes a worsening of terms. Is this -- as has been alleged -- only a mistake, or does it indicate a more substantive change?

[Answer] "In an issue like foreign aid, there are no mistakes. The administration is, in fact, seeking to worsen the terms of the aid by increasing the proportion of loans -- which we have difficulties in repaying -- by decreasing the proportion of grants. I believe Israel should and can be economically independent even in the near future, because it has the necessary human resources for this. Overgenerous aid is liable to cause a situation where we shall be marking time, without any effort to attain economic independence. At the same time, in the course of this difficult process toward economic independence, we were hit by a drawback involving the Camp David process, and which entitles us to receive aid from the United States. Had we been sitting today at the 'Alma oilfields, we would be saving \$2 billion annually. In other words, our trade balance would be sound. In addition to that, we undertook an expenditure of some \$5 billion for the deployment in the Negev and for compensation to be paid due to the withdrawal from Sinai. I believe the United States took upon itself a considerable part of the responsibility for that expenditure, and I intend to present to the administration the economic difficulties that we are shouldering."

MA'ARIV'S HARIF VIEWS RELATIONS WITH U.S.

TA121640 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Mar 82 pp 13, 14

[Commentary by Yosef Harif]

[Text] In a personal note addressed to U.S. President Ronald Reagan last Tuesday, Prime Minister Begin apparently sought first and foremost to thank the President for the special concern he displayed for his health. Reagan was very worried when he heard that the prime minister had to leave the banquet in honor of French President Francois Mitterrand because of illness. President Reagan's special envoy, Philip Habib, who recounted this on his arrival here at the beginning of the week, said that Reagan showed great concern over Mr Begin's health and expressed the hope he would make a speedy recovery.

Begin thanked Habib for these kind words on behalf of the President, but did not leave it at that. On the next day he sent a personal note to Reagan, the gist of which was to convey the encouragement he drew toward recovery thanks to this human touch, as if to say: It is good to see that there is such a man sitting in the White House, the leader of the free world, who finds time for concern about the well-being of an individual.

It would seem that behind the personal concern -- alongside the possibly self-understood humane aspect -- as much in its initial expression as in the response thereto, there are also other considerations. It may be that -- when Reagan suddenly heard the first report of Begin's illness and his removal to one of the hotel rooms while the banquet was continuing and no one could tell how Begin was going to make out -- the thought occurring to President Reagan was perhaps, what is going to happen in this conflict-ridden region at the present stage when Israel has not yet completed the evacuation of Sinai, when Lebanon is like a volcano and when Israel is liable to go into action against it "at any moment" in reaction to the terrorists' "provocation".....

Begin, who recovered and returned to work at his office, naturally felt the need to thank Reagan for his concern, over and above the thanks voiced to Philip Habib. Maybe he thought this was the moment to try to tighten --perhaps even to mend -- his personal relations with President Reagan. The hustle-bustle in the U.S. administration around the problems touching on the region, the sentiment of the eventual vacuum liable to arise on completion of the withdrawal from Sinai without any prospect of progress in the autonomy talks, the misunderstandings over Israel's possible moves vis-a-vis Lebanon, the administration's resort to punitive methods such as no previous administration saw fit to apply with such severity -- all these things presumably moved the prime minister to try to restore the friendly and personal dialogue with President Reagan.

A little while ago, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir broached the idea that he travel to the United States for talks on what is going to happen after May, that is, after the Israeli pullback from Sinai will have been concluded and Middle East diplomacy will have reached a new crossroads. Begin was disinclined to approve this idea although decidedly cognizant of the grave problem that prompted the foreign minister to contemplate the need for talks with the heads of the administration in Washington.

Begin made his own covert move, without any indication as yet whether it will bear the hoped-for results. This week, in talks with Philip Habib, he showed restraint, although he could apparently well understand the stormy mood of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, who on the same occasion voiced dissatisfaction with the results of the "rounds" made by Philip Habib. Begin spoke of the need for "coordination and understanding" between Israel and the United States as to what might happen in Lebanon, for the reiterated assurance given Habib, also by the prime minister, that "we shall not attack unless faced with a provocation" -- does not in itself constitute a guarantee of continued tranquillity.

Hence we have the very pronounced need for "coordination and understanding" between Israel and the United States in the coming days in respect to possible developments in Lebanon -- against the background of the terrorists' strengthening there -- in respect to the eventual course of relations with Egypt, and in respect to the future of the dead autonomy talks and the substitute somebody may wish to offer in their stead. Suffice it to point out that Philip Habib himself reported here this week that he has gained the impression in several Arab capitals, and not only in Riyadh, that the Arabs will try to revive the Fahd plan (which is the Saudi plan for a Palestinian state headed by the PLO and with Jerusalem as its capital).

Philip Habib saw fit to offer a reassuring interpretation of the words contained in last week's message from President Reagan about the need for Israel to "provide evidence" that it seeks peace. Habib contended that such "evidence" alluded not to the need for Israel to prove that it was indeed a peace-loving country, but to the need for it to strengthen its image as such.

And on this score, Habib said his "private opinion" -- as he termed it -- was that Israel should conduct itself so as to not forfeit its positive image. Begin reiterated his affirmation of last week that the impression which Habib wished Israel to remedy was the product of false "reports" being poured out by the U.S. media. In this context, the prime minister stressed the grave implications of the U.S. approach. The United States -- according to the media -- does not address its warnings to the parties in need of warning. There is a constant stream of news reports to the effect that the United States, in the persons of the President and the secretary of state, have been warning and cautioning Israel. It matters little that these reports are incorrect. What matters -- on this Begin was emphatic -- is that the opposite side (namely the terrorists) are liable to be induced to make an error and resort to provocation for the purpose of provoking a breach between Israel and the United States.

Here was but one example of the need for "coordination and understanding" between Israel and the United States on the delicate and sensitive situation created in the region. Habib tried to substantiate his claim that his visit this time round had achieved its purpose -- that is, he had also warned the Syrians of the possible consequences of provocative action against Israel by the terrorists, should the terrorists make light of the cease-fire and anti-Israeli activity. Philip Habib said he had returned from this mission feeling optimistic, because he was convinced that all parties realized how "explosive" the situation was, with "anything liable to happen at any moment," which is why all understood how important it was to maintain the cease-fire. Moreover, Habib had something to say which, from Israel's point of view, represented a new departure: He had gotten the various "factors" (be it Saudi Arabia or, indirectly, the PLO and Damascus) to understand that there was nothing unclear about the substance of the cease-fire agreement. The terrorists, for example, could not float a hot-air balloon into Israel and claim afterwards that such an operation was not covered by the cease-fire agreement with Israel and was therefore permissible. The cease-fire, Habib stressed, is definitive and not confined simply to this one specific sector: the Lebanese-Israeli border. In this context, Habib also warned his interlocutors that Israel is always ready and, that this readiness should be taken into account.

Even so, the prime minister believes there has to be "coordination and understanding" between Israel and the United States. Presumably it is to this end that he also sent his personal note to President Reagan this week. If the U.S. President is indeed convinced that it is precisely Menachem Begin's strong leadership -- of which the U.S. media, not without inspiration from certain quarters in the administration, is not overly fond -- that guarantees regional stability, this would explain the White House concern for his health, and there really would be the chance of a renewed dialogue between the two leaders.

In one matter, Begin could draw encouragement this week. He has more than once tried to convince the Americans, both in public (by publicizing his famous conversation with Ambassador Lewis last December) and in correspondence with the President that Israel will not be influenced by the "punitive method." Only through the presentation of rational arguments and through dialogue, Begin contended, can an understanding be reached. The prime minister this week received a pledge from Secretary of State Haig -- through Ambassador Lewis -- that there will be no more "punishment" and that he would not be a party thereto. By way of proof, Haig pointed out that it was he who had stood up for the increased aid for Israel, as approved by Congress (here, apparently, was a rebuttal of "news" that the United States would be resorting to "economic sanctions" against Israel and, for some reason, Haig had been implicated in these media stories).

However, this encouraging pledge would not seem of itself sufficient to restore U.S.-Israeli relations to their former status as depicted during the prime minister's visit to the White House last September, to the accompaniment of trumpet-blasts about the "memorandum of strategic understanding," the exchange of visits between the Israeli defense minister and the U.S. secretary of defense and other supposedly substantial indications of togetherness.

Apart from the actual understanding achieved between the two countries in a certain sphere, there is today no understanding and certainly no coordination on all problems in dispute.

It would therefore appear to Israel that right now -- on the eve of the withdrawal from Sinai and in view of the changes liable to occur in the region thereafter -- the time has come to try to ensure enhanced understanding with Washington.

Israel's anxieties are threefold: over the future of relations with Egypt, the solution to the Palestinian problem (against the background of the renewed calls for a Palestinian state emanating not only from Mitterrand, Lord Carrington who is due here on March 31, or Kreisky, but also from the U.S. State Department), and the situation in Lebanon.

Many a question hovers over the state of relations with Egypt despite the certainty that the Egyptians will not dare break the peace agreement. The dialogue between Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and President Hosni Mubarak on the subject of the visit to Jerusalem would seem to be characteristic. In the course of their conversation, Mubarak explained that it would be difficult for him to visit Jerusalem now, for such a visit would adversely affect the process of improved relations between Egypt and the Arab countries, and this is "something that will also be to your advantage"...

Maybe so -- Shamir replied -- but on my last visit to you, you told me that the improvement of your relations with the Arab countries would not be made at Israel's expense, and here you are refuting yourself in the first real test (the need to visit Jerusalem).

Under the circumstances, Mubarak saw himself obliged to be entirely "frank" with Shamir. He admitted that his reticence was not occasioned by "what the Arabs are going to say" outside Egypt, but by what the extremist Muslims inside Egypt might say and do. He was going to have to approve the death sentence passed on a number of As-Sadat's assassins. In addition, there were to be more trials against others who had threatened the regime, and, on Mubarak's orders, a thousand men or so had been arrested. This goes to show that in taking his first steps as president, he was thoroughly immersed in grave domestic problems (it would seem that his fears are great indeed if he sent his prime minister to the funeral of the head of the Al-Azhar University, and stayed away from such a "mass assembly sport").

These words of the Egyptian president may be perfectly true and it is quite understandable that given the way things are in Egypt he is gripped with fear, especially after the undissipated trauma following the assassination of his predecessor, As-Sadat. If this is so, then the reason for his not coming to Jerusalem is perhaps more worrisome than the action (or inaction) per se. For, if alarms over "domestic problems" are to dictate the direction taken by the new regime, what importance is there to all the commitments Egypt has taken upon itself by virtue of the peace treaty with Israel? When once the elected president knowingly gives in to the "situation", there is no end to it in sight.

Not only is Israel perturbed by the reality shaping up in Egypt but the United States is worried about the personality of Mubarak, who visited Washington a few weeks ago. He did not appear to be a self-confident leader (incidentally, his residence is some 250 meters from his presidential office, and that is about the sum of his daily travels). Washington, too, wondered out loud: If he is afraid today when "subject to pressures" what can one expect of him when he is eventually confronted with graver problems? Will this concern, which is apparently shared by Washington and Jerusalem, encourage the United States to reach a basic understanding on total coordination with Israel? That is Israel's prime concern in view of the near completion of the withdrawal from Sinai.

As for the autonomy talks, nobody in Jerusalem seems to believe that Egypt will be more flexible after the withdrawal.

The "greetings" the prime minister received from Habib in regard to his [Begin's] observations of the revival of the Fahd plan are enough to stir deep anxiety.

As far as may be judged by Washington's moves before and after the AWACS deal, it is not clear if the Fahd doctrine, which enjoys PLO support, will be on the agenda immediately after the withdrawal from Sinai; it is a foregone conclusion, however, that "autonomy," as Israel understands it, will be taken off the agenda with all that this implies for possible tensions in U.S.-Israeli relations and for the quest for a substitute solution (has the chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, Charles Percy, in his latest utterances not come close to granting "self determination" to the Palestinians?)

And where does the United States stand in the dispute over the situation in Lebanon?

On the face of it, in the light of Philip Habib's "optimistic" survey, the terrorists are in a tight corner. They are afraid to go into action, having been warned that "Israel is prepared" but if they do not take action, their political standing will erode -- meaning that time is against them.

But the problem is not that simple. True, right now the terrorists are afraid that if they strike at Israel in violation of the cease-fire, they will be doomed to physical extinction in southern Lebanon (Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has declared innumerable times and also publicly, that Israel will not exercise the same restraint as it imposed upon itself last summer, when the terrorists shelled the northern settlements, and the terrorists have taken the "hint"). But it is unlikely that the terrorists, who are subject to the influence of the Syrians and the Soviets, will sit idle for any length of time. If they do commit any sort of "provocation," what is Israel going to do?

The subject came up in the conversations with Philip Habib. At a certain moment the prime minister asked him: Why do you object to an operation against the terrorists, are you not opposed to international terrorism?

Philip Habib hemmed and hawed and sidestepped an answer. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon came to his rescue: "I shall answer in his place," he said. "If the Americans were convinced that an Israeli operation would be targeted solely against the terrorists, they would not object. But the terrorists are deployed close to the Syrian forces, and the Americans fear that the Syrians will also get hit..." Habib neither confirmed nor denied this assumption. He tried to shift the conversation to what he regarded as his great accomplishment: that the cease-fire is still being observed and so far not a single soldier has been killed and that is what matters most.

Sharon put in a "reminder" that the terrorists are accumulating weapons in abundance and that there are indications of their intentions to strike. Yes, said Habib, but "so far, up to this moment" they have not done a thing...But the defense minister was not soothed. He was not enthused over the show of smiles that characterized the conversation with Habib, and his voice rose to a thunder. He listened to Philip Habib's "accomplishments" and afterwards told his colleagues that he "does not believe the Americans..."

In the defense minister's assessment of the situation, Israel is approaching the "critical points," as he termed it, and is not absolved of the obligation to undertake a timely soul-searching, and so he told his colleagues: "I do not hesitate to say that the Americans are behaving toward us in a hitherto unknown cynical fashion...and I prefer to say to them -- with all due respect, have the goodness not to pull a fast one on us..."

What is it all about?

He is ruffled by a situation in which Israel is the object of "warnings" whereas when Damascus is visited praises are lavished on Al-Asad.

Israel agreed to the procedures proposed by the United States (in a personal demarche from Reagan to Begin, with the promise that the United States agrees with Israel's demand that the Syrian missiles be removed from the Lebanese Al-Biq'a Valley), yet things have gone on the way they have.

The defense minister feels it is pointless to shrink from an admission of an erroneous assessment. The reality is such that not only have the Syrians not pulled the missiles back, but they have pushed forward more and more of them, while the terrorists too have been fortifying and reinforcing themselves. And what does Habib do? He travels to see Fahd in Riyadh.

In the course of the conversation, Sharon said to Habib: What takes you to Riyadh? It is as if we were to speak to China about its intervention in Vietnam....

So what is it that the defense minister fears?

It seems to him, so he said to his colleagues, that the Americans are ready to sacrifice Lebanon, even at the cost of its losing its independence, for the sake of an attempt to draw Syria to the U.S. side. And since the Syrians offer protection for the terrorists' artillery, the United States is opposed to Israeli action against the "terrorists." Therefore, the defense minister sees nothing "coincidental" about the fact that the United States has eased up on the sale of various items to Syria.

Sharon: "Does Syria not aid and abet terrorism?"

The U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis, who was present during the conversation with Philip Habib -- at which the prime minister and the foreign minister were "calm," while the defense minister at times raised his voice and talked tough with Habib -- wanted to know, while making it appear to be an incidental question, whether Sharon spoke to Mitterrand about Lebanon.

The reply was affirmative and he was told that there was a common view of the basic objective, namely that Lebanon must remain free and that it needs a strong central government. The U.S. ambassador replied that the French had limited influence on present-day Lebanon. That in itself is undoubtedly true. But what influence does the United States have? Or more precisely, what does it aspire to? To that, no reply was forthcoming from either the ambassador or from special envoy Philip Habib.

This, then is one more thing for Israel to worry about. Everything it could do prior to the withdrawal -- the annexation of the Golan Heights, the freeze on autonomy although Israel does not want the freeze -- has already been done. It may be assumed that thanks to the "stubbornness" of the defense minister, the Egyptians will compromise on the matter of the final marking of the border between Egypt and Israel. But if anybody thought there was a possibility, prior to the withdrawal from Sinai, to strike at the PLO to the extent of wiping it out as a political factor that compels consideration, well that opportunity has passed beyond recall.

And what "now" -- that is, after 25 April (contrary to the prime minister's reckoning, the Foreign Ministry's legal counsellor has ruled that our last day in Sinai is 25 April up to the dawn of April 26, when Israel must be out?)

Arik Sharon's contentions are apparently not unfounded. Philip Habib was impressed by Al-Asad's willingness to receive him for a personal meeting despite the fact that on the same day the headlines in Damascus proclaimed that Philip Habib was an "Israeli agent" and an "American meddler" and accusations were flung at the United States that it had had a hand in the Hamah uprising of the enemies of the regime. What is more, the press in Damascus urged Al-Asad "not to see him" (Habib) -- and still he did see Habib for a personal meeting...

There can be no doubt at all that the United States views a rapprochement with Syria as a major objective, and when Jordan threatens to purchase weapons from the Soviet Union, does not Washington offer it Hawk missiles?

(But not before leaking news of the quantities received by Israel, so as to soothe Israel's friends in Congress.) (And if Egypt tries to extort concessions from the United States at Israel's expense, on account of Mubarak's difficult domestic situation, will the United States remain indifferent? [punctuation as published])

In light of all this, can there be the slightest doubt that at such a time there is need for what the prime minister calls "coordination and understanding" with the United States?

The position of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon is that "when dear life is at stake, I have no desire to appear as a party to harmony, to all-round smiles... it is impermissible to put on a pretense of satisfaction... we have to know just where the United States is heading... and know it now."

Begin, who listened to the defense minister's talk to Philip Habib did not react. Maybe in his heart of hearts he agreed with him. But he chose his own way of seeking the desired understanding -- by an "extremely warm" personal note to President Reagan. Whether Reagan was indeed worried about the prime minister's "health" -- and not just about his personal health -- is something that will be put to the test in Reagan's reply to Begin's personal note. Until then there is cause for anxieties, despite Philip Habib's optimism.

MAJOR GENERAL DRORI ISSUES DECREE ON ID CARDS

TAl12103 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2040 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] Qazrin, 11 Mar -- The commander of the Northern Command, Maj Gen Amir Drori, today issued a decree in the Golan Druze villages stating that the inhabitants will have to carry Israeli identification cards beginning 1 April. At the same time, the decree stipulates that this does not make the bearers of those cards Israeli citizens. Any local inhabitant who would like to become an Israeli citizen will have to submit a separate application, which will be reviewed and decided upon by the authorities.

The decree further stipulates that even though the Druze will carry identification cards, they will not have to serve in the IDF. The ITIM correspondent has learned that in the last few days several hundred Druze have appealed to the Golan Heights Interior Ministry branch requesting Israeli identification cards. The move was taken at their own initiative. It is estimated that all in all, the number of adults who will be obligated to carry Israeli identification cards will reach 4,000.

This evening, the IDF permitted Israeli and foreign correspondents to tour the Golan Druze villages that have been placed under siege by the IDF. They discovered that calm prevails in the area, but that the shops are still closed and no classes are being held in the schools.

The commander of the Northern Command told the reporters that before the four HADASH Knesset members visited the Druze villages, some local inhabitants and clergymen had appealed to him not to allow the visit. Other Druze organized to prevent the visit by force and only because of IDF intervention was violent action against the MK's prevented. Thus, only some Golan inhabitants welcomed the visitors. RAKAH MK Tawfiq Tubi today appealed to the defense minister, claiming that those Druze who had met the HADASH Knesset members were subsequently questioned at the local police station. He argued that this was in contravention of a promise by one of the IDF officers in the area who pledged that the Druze with whom the HADASH delegation members met would not be harmed.

DRUZE SCALE DOWN CONDITIONS FOR ENDING STRIKE

TA111204 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Mar 82 p 2

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] Druze religious leaders in the Golan Heights and the leaders of the general strike there reduced to three the number of conditions they are demanding be met in exchange for an end to the strike. The strike is now in its 25th day.

The conditions relayed to the government are as follows: -- Revoking the application of Israeli law in the areas of jurisdiction of the four Druze villages in the Golan, and restoring to these villages the status of occupied territory administered by the Military Government. Previously, the Druze demanded revoking the application of Israeli law on all of the Golan Heights, but it appears that recently they realized that there was no chance of Israel giving in to such a demand and as a result they have scaled it down. -- Lifting the IDF seige of the Druze villages, and "ending the baiting of the residents by the army." -- Releasing the nine notables arrested in recent weeks who are being held in administrative detention.

The leaders of the striking Druze announced these conditions yesterday but had raised them beforehand with the four HADASH Knesset Members who visited their villages 2 days ago.

DRUZE RELIGIOUS LEADERS DECLINE IDENTITY CARDS

TA151028 Jerusalem POST in English 15 Mar 82 p 3

[Report by Yo'el Dar]

[Text] Majdat Shams -- Seven religious leaders of this Golan Druze village have turned down an officer of Israeli identity cards as a way of showing their support for ending the region's general strike, now entering its second month.

The proposal was made by the commander of the Northern Command, Maj Gen Amir Drori at a weekend meeting with the seven in the village of Mas'adah. Drori told Sahykh Salman at-Tahir and six other clerics that he had been authorized by the prime minister to inform them that Golan Druze who accept Israeli ID cards or even citizenship will not necessarily be conscripted for military service.

The seven welcomed the gesture, but declined Drori's offer to accept identity cards on the spot. They said they could not take such a step without consulting with their colleagues.

At the same time, a group of Druze moderates has called for restricting the activity of radical political parties in the villages, particularly the communist RAKAH. A spokesman for the moderates said yesterday that, ever since an unexpected Golan visit last week by four MKs of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (of which RAKAH is the major component) the number of local residents applying for Israeli ID cards dropped sharply.

The spokesman also said that the MKs' visit encouraged local pro-Syrian groups which have stepped up their pressure on those favouring an end to the strike.

Several RAKAH-affiliated lawyers have visited Druze who returned to their jobs in Upper Galilee and tried to persuade them to go back on strike, the spokesman said. The lawyers claimed to represent a citizens' rights organization, but they were identified as the same persons who tried to persuade Golan Druze to return Israeli ID cards several months ago.

Shaykh Nur ad-Din Halabi, one of Israel's two Druze qadis, has called on Golan Druze spiritual leaders to stop the general strike immediately and to accept Israeli law.

The call was made in a cable sent yesterday to Shaykh at-Tahir. In another two cables to the prime minister and to the minister of defence, Halabi urged the government to remove the roadblocks from the Golan villages.

FORMER HAZAR ADAR SETTLERS RETURN TO SETTLEMENT

TA110616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] Some 50 former settlers from Hazar Adar, most of them youngsters, returned about 1 hour ago to the settlement. Our correspondent Shelomo Raz reports they are now laying tiles on the hut that was left on the site, and are planting trees. Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen is with them. She said the evacuation would not weaken their hands and they intend to return to the site time and again. The Hazar Adar settlers were evacuated about 1 week ago. Advance compensation payments of from 500,000 and up to 2 million shekels will be sent today to each of the businessmen in Yamit. This has been agreed upon between the businessmen and the director general of the prime minister's office. The businessmen will submit their compensation demands to him next week.

The Knesset Finance Committee will today discuss the proposed compensation law for Sinai evacuees. The bill will be submitted, by the end of this week to the attorneys of the settlers. After their reaction, a final version of the bill will be formulated, and discussed in the Knesset plenary session next week. Our correspondent notes that the modifications introduced by the committee are likely to reduce the compensation by some half a billion shekels.

A spokesman for the settlements committee in the Yamit District said that if the bill is indeed meant to cancel all the agreements and accords reached so far, to prevent any appeal on decisions of an arbitrator, and facilitate postponement of compensation payments for almost 1 year, the committee will not agree to ease the evacuation from settlements in the Yamit District. The committee demands the implementation of existing agreements.

ADDITIONAL W. BANK SETTLEMENTS TO BE SET UP

TA101727 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Mar 82

[Text] The government will set up additional settlements in Judaea and Samaria. A decision on this will be made shortly. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that Minister Zvulun Hammer suggested to the prime minister that he decide that for every settlement uprooted in the Yamit District in the framework of the peace treaty, a new settlement will be set up in Judaea and Samaria. The prime minister gave his blessing to this idea. Minister Hammer talked also with Ministers Sharon and Ehrlich and both expressed support in principle for the proposal. The three of them will consolidate a draft resolution and in a few days will submit it to the Cabinet for a decision.

LIBYAAL-QADHDHAFI RETURNS AFTER MALTA STOPOVER

LD132014 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1950 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 12 Mar (JANA) -- The brother commander of the revolution concluded his 4-day official and cordial visit to Austria at the invitation of Austrian Chancellor Dr Bruno Kreisky. The brother commander returned home at 1900 today.

The brother commander was welcomed at Tripoli International Airport by Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Brig 'Abu Yunis Jabir, Chief of Staff of the Libyan Armed Forces Brig Mustafa al-Kharrubi, and Commander of Urban Militarization Maj al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi.

Statement on Return

LD140810 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Mar (JANA) -- The brother leader of the revolution on his arrival last night in Tripoli at the conclusion of his 4-day visit to Austria made a statement to JANA. He said:

My visit to Austria was extremely positive. It made it possible to explain viewpoints on various international issues which used to be distorted by the Zionist, imperialist and reactionary media. During this visit I was able to convince the Austrian people and officials of the correctness of our position and the justice of our cause.

The leader said that the comprehension, vitality and courage of the Austrian chancellor effectively influenced the success of this visit and also helped the majority of the official sectors of Western public opinion appreciate that our posture and policy are greatly misunderstood.

He added that this visit confirmed that dialogue and direct meetings are the best means to settle international issues and to establish world understanding which strengthens world peace.

The leader of the revolution, in his statement to JANA, stressed that we are hopeful direct meetings like the one which took place in Austria will take place with all the Western countries. He explained that this is the way to understand each other and to avoid much misunderstanding and counter propaganda.

The leader explained that he did not discount making other successful visits to Western Europe to serve the cause of peace in Europe, the Mediterranean Sea and Africa and the development of economic and political cooperation among these countries.

He said: I do not discount that this will take place even with America.

About his stop in Malta this evening [13 March] the brother leader explained that his stop was the result of the intervention of Chancellor Kreisky who had an important role in bringing about an understanding with Malta.

He said the stop in Valetta gave him the chance to meet with Prime Minister Dom Mintoff, members of his government and the president of the republic. The talks he held restored matters to their normal course and it was agreed to submit the question of the continental shelf to the International Court of Justice, as was done between Libya and Tunisia.

He added that his stop in Valetta led to a complete understanding with Dom Mintoff and his government and was received with a warm fraternal spirit. He stressed that this meeting opened the door for further cordial understandings to settle many of the problems in the region and in the world.

U.S. REACTION TO TRIP 'CRUDE INTERFERENCE'

LD131744 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Excerpts] The U.S. administration has expressed great concern over the visit to Austria by the leader of the revolution and its positive results and their effect on U.S. policy toward the European countries which rejected subservience to the United States and adopted independent stands. In a press statement issued yesterday in Washington, a U.S. State Department spokesman said the department has informed Austria of its concern and reservations regarding the visit and its possible consequences.

Following the U.S. State Department spokesman's remarks, the JANA political analyst said the U.S. administration's attempt to notify the Austrian Government of the concern preoccupying that administration because of the leader's visit to Austria is seen as a blatant and crude interference in the affairs of an independent country which does not need anyone to tell it what it should do. The interference proved a devastating failure in its attempt to pressure the European countries into making them follow its aggressive campaign against Libya purely for the sake of U.S. interests.

MEDIA ATTACK 'IGNORANT RULER IN RIYADH'

For Supporting Oil Ban

LD131126 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Mar 82

["JANA Exposes the Ignorant Rulers in Riyadh" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, 13 March (JANA) -- As is customary for cowardly lackeys and down-and-out agents, the rulers of Saudi Arabia have endorsed the American decision to ban the import of Libyan oil and have enthusiastically indulged in the U.S. administration's justifications and fabricated claims. Thus, these cowards have once again confirmed that America's friends are Israel's friends and that America and Israel see them as mere insignificant instruments and simple minds. Moreover, they protect contemptibility, sordidness and malice in the nation to which they claim to belong and they deceive others into thinking they are the protectors and guardians of that nation.

The Saudi rulers' endorsement of the American posture, which is hostile to the Libyan Arab people, is in itself the posture of feeble defeatists. The degree of baseness these rulers have reached is indicated by their level of capitulation and by their abandoned enthusiasm to do anything that will please America and Israel.

Such a posture is rejected by Libya. Libyans would be too ashamed to think the same as the supporters of blasphemy and the atheists of the century, who indulge in sensualities.

Regardless of America's hostile posture toward Libya we will not calm down and we will not let anyone harm our freedom. We will not bow down in front of America the way they are doing in Riyadh, they who are sinking in depravation and who have insulted their nation and religion.

Libya will remain a constant thorn in their side and will remain in the frontline trenches facing America and Israel. Libya will never relinquish the causes of the Arab nation. Libya rejects the logic of the feeble in Riyadh. We consider their posture to be cowardly and their behavior as renunciation of Islam.

Let them look at themselves closely and see how the peninsula has been turned into an American military base, how the administration has been turned into an American administration and how the Saudi people have been repressed and humiliated while the Saudi rulers roam among the harems and concubines in pursuit of their indulgences. They deny their people everything, but they do not deny America anything. What sort of posture is this?

What sort of people are they? Where is the dignity they claim to have? They claim they guard and protest Islam and its cause. They have squandered everything except their dens, which are defiled by blasphemy. Thus, they are excused for expressing their satisfaction with America's hostile stand toward our people in Libya, Algeria and the Gulf.

What can one expect from those scoundrels and tyrants headed by Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who enjoys perversion, lines of concubines and beheadings.

We do not expect them to have a manly posture or a posture that (?expresses the aspirations) of this nation. They are merely ugly puppets, cheap agent instruments and worn out chess pieces who are repulsive to look at and a cause for disgust. They will know their fate sooner or later.

These people, who stood up in the face of the will of the Arab nation, will be executed; the Saudi people will not let them flourish. The Saudi people are bound to avenge themselves in order to release themselves from this tragic repression and dictatorship imposed upon them by the emperors of ignorance, the executioners and those who are in alliance with the great devil in the White House.

For 'Revenge Measures'

LD122322 Tripoli JANA in English 1918 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Mar (JANA) -- AL-JAMAHIRIYAH daily, the organ of the revolutionary committees, accused the Saudi Kingdom of taking revenge measures against the people of the jamahiriya, following the Saudi's setback at Fes summit.

The paper added that by glutting the oil market, Saudi Arabia was acting on orders from the Reagan's administration which considers the jamahiriya as a threat to its designs in the Arab and African regions.

"The Saudi position of revenge against the people of the jamahiriya follows the policy review made by the Reagan administration in the light of the escalating effectiveness of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the role it is playing against American, Zionist and reactionary designs", the paper continued.

The paper attributed the Saudi hostility toward the jamahiriya to the dialectical contradiction between the surrogate elements of evil and the revolutionary forces which will be solved in favour of the revolution.

AL-QADHDHAFI SAID TO REDUCE AID TO LEBANESE

PM150821 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13-19 Mar 82 p 11

[From "AL-MAJALLAH Correspondents" feature]

[Text] According to informed Lebanese sources, Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi has reduced financial aid to Lebanese political organizations by as much as 75 percent. All attempts to persuade Al-Qadhdhafi to change his mind have failed.

Sources close to Libya say this step was taken because these Lebanese organizations "have not played the role required of them." Other sources maintain that the real reason for the move is Libya's serious liquidity problem.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLICKOLINGBA PROMISES TO SPARE PATASSE'S LIFE

AB111546 Paris AFP in French 1254 GMT 11 Mar 82

[By AFP special correspondent Jean Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Bangui, 11 March (AFP) -- CAR head of state Gen Andre Kolingba objects to tying the future of French-CAR relations to the fate of Ange Patasse, an opposition leader now taking refuge in the French Embassy in Bangui, and promises that the latter's "life will be spared" in the event of extradition.

In an interview granted to two French journalists, including the AFP special envoy, General Kolingba stressed that if France grants political asylum to Patasse, this decision "will not affect the relations of cooperation" between the two countries. "There is no connection whatsoever," he added.

At the time of the interview, General Kolingba had still not received Paris' official reply to the request for the extradition of Patasse who is considered one of the main instigators of the attempted coup d'etat of 3 to 4 March. The head of state therefore refused to comment on the statement made on Wednesday in Paris by Mr Beregovoy, secretary general of the presidency, following a Cabinet meeting. Beregovoy said France would "respect the right of asylum."

In reply to a question as to the fate reserved for Patasse in the event of extradition, General Kolingba stated: "I am not a killer. France would render me a great service if it hands over Patasse. Patasse's life will be spared. I promise it on my honor as an officer." The CAR head of state, however, insisted on the fact that Patasse should not remain "unpunished." "He must appear before the court," he said. As far as General Kolingba is concerned, France is not implicated in last week's abortive coup. He said "to his knowledge," no Frenchman was involved in it.

General Kolingba -- who was relaxed, smiling and confident -- assured that the two former Generals and Ministers Mbaikoua and Bozize -- who, together with Patasse, were responsible for the attempted coup d'etat and who are now on the run -- have aroused the "unanimous" condemnation of the Council of Ministers. There is no "disagreement" within the government, he added. Finally, General Kolingba stated that the recent events have compromised the process of political liberalization started a few weeks ago. In this connection, the head of state explained he had received several political party leaders with whom he discussed this question. But, he added, "everything will have to restart from the beginning." Patasse engaged in "an act of sabotage" in our country, he added. Since the attempted coup d'etat, this is the first time General Kolingba, who has been in power since 1 September 1981, has made a public statement through an interview.

ARRESTS OF GOVERNMENT OPPONENTS CONTINUE

AB121622 Paris AFP in French 1229 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Bangui, 12 Mar (AFP) -- The arrests of presumed or real opponents of Gen Andre Kolingba's regime continue in Bangui 1 week after the attempted coup of 3 and 4 March.

According to a reliable source, about 60 persons recently have been arrested, interrogated and imprisoned in Bangui. Most of them belong to the CAR People's Liberation Movement (MLPC) which has been dissolved and whose leader, Ange Patasse, presumed to be the main instigator of the recent coup attempt, has taken asylum at the French Embassy in the CAR.

The aim of CAR authorities is to dismantle, as quickly as possible, the MLPC "cells" which might possibly start operating again underground. Apparently, the arrests are very selective, which explains the relatively small number considering last week's tension in the CAR. In fact, the Military Committee for National Redress has a special list of opponents it intends to neutralize. As soon as the "target" sought is located, it is immediately apprehended.

At the Bangui airport, immigration formalities have become very arduous. The identity and luggage of passengers are subjected to strict control. Instructions have been issued to passengers to be present for police formalities 2 hours before departure time.

The repressive action by the CAR authorities is hardly frowned upon by the population in Bangui. The CAR capital inhabitants are, on the contrary, happy with the "mastery" shown by General Kolingba in keeping control of the situation. The reprisals by the security forces could have been much harsher, it is often pointed out.

In the absence of an official report, according to sources, the number dead is estimated at between 3 and 12 and the number wounded at about 30 as a result of the last week's abortive coup. It is reported in the entourage of the head of state that General Kolingba repeatedly gave instructions to keep bloodshed to a minimum.

MBAIKOU FOUND, ESCAPES; CHADIANS IMPLICATED

AB141555 Paris AFP in English 1531 GMT 14 Mar 82

[By Jeane-Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Bangui, 14 March (AFP) -- Government troops tracked down fleeing ex-General Alphonse Mbaikou, wanted in connection with an unsuccessful coup attempt on March 3, but he escaped after an exchange of fire and was now believed to be making for Chad on foot, according to reliable sources here.

The clash occurred about 150 km (95 miles) north of the capital after the former justice minister and his small group of companions, spotted by a military patrol, in turn ambushed the government unit. One soldier with the patrol and a Chadian with the rebel general were wounded in the encounter.

Mr Mbaikou managed to escape from the capital only a few days ago, with three or four other people, including a Chadian who was later captured by the regular army.

The small group of fugitives is now reported to be heading for the Chadian frontier, about 600 km (375 miles) north of Bangui, trying to avoid existing routes, which are under close surveillance. Official sources fear the general may have other Chadian help and could manage to escape to southern Chad. Should this be the case it would tend to support theories of a link between last week's coup and reported infiltrations into central Africa from Chad of Libyan-trained opponents of General Andre Kolingba's government.

The authorities recently arrested a dozen people, in Bangui and the northern town of Douar, allegedly after they crossed into the country on a mission to destabilise the regime. Explosives were seized at the time of the arrests. Those arrested were reported to be working for Idi Lala, leader of the Central African National Liberation Movement (MCLN) and a protagonist of violent revolution in the country. The MCLN claimed responsibility for the July 14 bomb attack on a Bangui cinema last year in which four people were killed and many others injured. Mr Lala later negotiated an alliance with Central African People's Liberation Movement (MLPC) led by former Premier Ange Patasse, who sought refuge in the French Embassy here after the government accused him of organising the coup attempt.

The other leading figure in the coup attempt, former Information Minister ex-Brigadier Francois Bozize, is still missing, although there has been several reports that he is still somewhere in the capital.

Meanwhile the authorities have withdrawn police reinforcements posted outside the French Embassy here following Mr Patasse's flight into the mission compound. This was being interpreted as a clear sign that relations with France were improving once again after the crisis which followed Mr Patasse's move into the chancery. Negotiations are still underway to enable the opposition leader to travel to exile in a third country.

GAMBIASPEAKER SAYS PARLIAMENT TO BE DISSOLVED 18 MAR

AB121342 Paris AFP in French 1109 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Banjul, 12 Mar (AFP) -- The Gambian Parliament will be dissolved on 18 March in view of the new legislative and presidential elections, assembly speaker Sir Alie Suleiman Jack announced in closing the ordinary session of parliamentary proceedings Thursday evening.

Under the constitutional amendment adopted on Wednesday, the presidential election must take place at least 30 days [words indistinct] the dissolution of Parliament. For the first time, the president will be elected by universal suffrage [words indistinct] previously the majority party in Parliament.

The Gambian Parliament, elected in 1977, comprises 30 members of the People's Progressive Party and 5 members of the opposition National Convention Party. Makulu, leader of the opposition, asked that members of Parliament now in detention, following the abortive coup of 30 July 1981, be tried immediately. "Their continued detention without trial would be considered a tactical maneuver aimed at preventing them from participating in the forthcoming elections," Makulu said.

GHANARAWLINGS FACES COUP PLOTS, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

AB131242 Paris AFP in English 1227 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Accra, 13 March (AFP) -- Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, Ghana's head of state since the New Year's Eve overthrow of President Hilla Limann's civilian government, finds himself faced with an increasingly difficult economic situation as rumors fly about new coup plots.

Over the past few weeks the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC) has reportedly been the target of several assassination attempts. The last one was on Friday, March 5, the eve of celebrations marking Ghana's 25th independence anniversary, according to political circles here.

According to these reports several officers behind the March 5 operation were arrested and subsequently executed. Some people say that at least eight people were executed. Other assassination attempts were reported to have been made during February, led by Ghanaian Army officers opposed to the new regime.

On March 6, during the military parade in Accra marking the independence anniversary Flt. Lt. Rawlings arrived in a machine-gun carrier surrounded by heavily armed soldiers in combat dress and escorted by two other armoured vehicles. During the ceremonies he was surrounded by bodyguards with guns at the ready. It is public knowledge that this is the only way the new Ghanaian leader moves about, even inside Burma Camp, the main military base here, where he lives.

These various attempts would explain why Flt. Lt. Rawlings has not found the time to come up with his promised economic recovery programme, even though the economic situation is still deteriorating. The worsening situation is obvious each day in the capital, where it is becoming increasingly difficult to find such basic consumer necessities as bread, rice, sugar and meat. The new military authorities are locked in a struggle with the market mammies, the women who control most of the local trade, and neither of the two sides is prepared to give way. The PNDC is insisting that stocks held by the market mammies, who are now banned from handling imported goods, should be sold at controlled prices fixed by the council. The traders argue that they cannot sell at a loss, and some of them have hoarded their goods, even burying them to hide them from the newly-created people's defence committees.

At the same time there has been no improvement in the already bad industrial situation. Factories are under producing through lack of spare parts or other essential commodities for which import licences are unobtainable because of lack of foreign exchange. The people's defence committees have led to widespread disputes in the factories which have further slowed down production and led to assaults on some executives. Several factory managers, including expatriates, have been accused by the committees of poor management, sometimes of fraud, and have been summoned to explain themselves.

Army Chief of Staff Brigadier Nundo-Mensah, a senior council member, has had to intervene publicly to make it clear that power was not given to the people so that they could molest the bosses.

Elsewhere, all foreign development and economic cooperation projects have been halted since the coup, as the overseas partners wait for Ghana's economic policy to be defined. It seems that even Libyan aid is not as significant as had been thought early in January when the two countries resumed relations in the wake of the coup. The Ghanaian delegation which visited Tripoli in February obtained only a gift of 50,000 tonnes of oil, the promise that a 15-year energy supply programme would be drawn up and discussions about a possible scheduled air route between Tripoli and Accra. To ensure oil supplies Ghana last week had to pay Nigeria 21 million dollars out of its 110 million dollar unpaid oil bill. Nigeria had halted supplies in January.

The priority today is on agricultural development. In January Flt. Lt. Rawlings sent university students on vacation until mid-April so they could help bring in the cocoa harvest, the country's main foreign exchange earner. Now he has announced that the target is self-reliance in food within one year. Ghana has plenty of rich land and it should not be difficult for the west African state to become self-sufficient. This is one task that does not require heavy financial investment, and which, if successful, could provide the basis for economic recovery.

INTENTIONS OF AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS QUESTIONED

AB131417 Accra Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] The manager of Farisco super market in Accra today exposed an attempt by a group of Western journalists to show up Ghana's revolution in bad light. The manager said the journalists, who had TV cameras, had informed him that they had official permission to take pictures in Ghana. But they began taking pictures of empty shelves in the shop, whereas, there were other shelves which were filled with goods.

A GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] correspondent, who happened to be around, noted that the group from Australia were using a car with registration number, CD 907. Our correspondent added that the intention of the team is, no doubt, to show the outside world that there is an acute shortage of goods in Ghana at this time of the anti-imperialist revolution.

MINISTRY TO CUT NUMBER, SIZE OF EMBASSIES

AB121136 Accra Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has completed work on the specific Ghanaian missions to be closed down in the light of the Provisional National Defense Council's [PNDC] policy of cutting down the cost of operating the country's foreign missions. It will be recalled that in the policy statement on the 1981-82 budget issued in Accra at the end of last month, the government announced the cutting down of the number of foreign missions from 43 to 30. In addition, the statement said the staff strength of the remaining embassies will be reduced.

In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been feverishly working out the modalities on the whole exercise. According to an official of the ministry, the 13 countries where the missions will be closed will be informed first. The official said the staff of the affected missions will be redeployed. The aim of the exercise is to save the country's scarce foreign and local currency and ensure an effective monitoring of the use of foreign exchange. The ministry will, in this connection, work out the number of embassy staff at post, the cost of keeping them as well as the present cost with regard to the reduced number of staff. The official said the ministry has almost completed the exercise and that the details will be sent to the PNDC for approval.

According to the official, the services of some of the European honorary consuls will be used as a means to conserve foreign exchange. Certain trade and business establishments as well as the question of obtaining visas will be channeled through them. On the creation of some embassies, the official hinted that the Ghana mission in Salisbury, Zimbabwe, is definitely going to be closed. The GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] has learned from reliable sources that at least 9 of the 13 missions to be closed are in Africa. Observers say this is bound to affect the promotion of intra-African trade.

COMMENTARY PRAISES LIBYAN AID, SUPPORT

AB121735 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Kofi Amoako commentary]

[Text] For some people especially in the imperialist camp, the revolution in Ghana is itself not as shocking as the close ties that it has brought about between Ghana and Libya. Libya is the one African country that gave an early support to the revolution of December 31. Apart from the proclamation of support, the brotherly people of Libya have sent in quite an amount of material aid to back up their words. The significance of Libya's action lies very much in the fact that it has come from a sister African country.

Libya is as much an African country as Ghana or any other country on the continent. Cooperation between Ghana and Libya can be seen only in terms of brotherly cooperation between all African peoples and this kind of cooperation is desirable if we are to break the myth of the indispensibility of the Europeans or Americans. As a result of this myth, the African has come to lose confidence in his own self to the extent that our very survival as a people has been made to appear to depend on the Europeans and the Americans. We tend to spurn our own efforts and the efforts of our brother Africans.

Take the situation in Chad as an example. At the height of the civil war in Chad, it occurred to the Chad leader, Goukouni Oueddei, to seek an African solution to the problem of his people as a first option. He decided to invite the Libyan people, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, to send Libyan troops to Chad to help him restore law and order in his country. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi responded to the call and so went in the Libyan troops. For the period that the Libyan forces were in Chad, they brought order out of the chaos that was Chad. Soon after the Libyans had moved into Chad, however, the enemies of African independence began a chorus of denunciation. They demanded the withdrawal of the Libyan forces from Chad. Tragically, the OAU of all things was also taken in by this imperialist-inspired propaganda against Libya and lent its support to the demand for Libya's withdrawal in the event Libya withdrew her troops from Chad. Now the OAU was to organize a multinational African force for Chad to replace the departing Libyans. When this African force was assembled from Nigeria, Zaire and Senegal, the first thing they did was to ask for logistic support from the United States and funds from the United Nations in order to be able to operate. Incredible!

If the OAU knew it has not the resources to do the job that the Libyans were doing in Chad with such competence, why was it so insistent on Libya withdrawing and thus sabotaging the most promising attempt to find an African solution to the problems in Chad. On all accounts, the OAU African peace force is collapsing and chaos has returned to Chad. The peace that the Libyans managed to enforce has disintegrated; so what next? If the African peace effort does collapse, the OAU will be left with no alternative but to invite the United Nations to come and take up peacekeeping in Chad. Of course, the imperialists would get their chance to enter Chad through the United Nations and if it does happen, African self-assertion would have suffered a severe setback. The enemies of African independence would have found another example of African incompetence.

But all this need not have happened if Africans had been willing to search seriously for African cooperation instead of being too ready to dance to the tune of the imperialists. What we in Africa need to do is to excise from our minds the myth that we cannot survive without the so-called developed world. We must cooperate with one another as a first option and look outside the continent as a last resort.

MALI

GUINEAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN BAMAKO 12 MAR

AB122150 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Excerpts] President Ahmed Sekou Toure's Boeing 707 landed at the Bamako international airport at exactly 1715. In an interview, President Ahmed Sekou Toure said his visit is a friendly and fraternal one. He also talked to Baba Diourtey about the Western Sahara conflict.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr President, you have just talked about the OAU by talking about Africa. Africa currently is shaken by a number of serious problems. Mr President, you are one of the first and the greatest defenders of African unity and your position on imperialism is well known. According to you, Mr President, what are the responsibilities of imperialism in the crises shaking our continent?

[Answer] I don't think the crises facing the OAU come from imperialism. It could be due to misunderstanding as it could be due to divergence in the ways leading to the African states' development. And this is a very serious case. [end recording]

Traore Welcome Speech

AB150922 Conakry Domestic in French 0915 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Welcome speech by President Moussa Traore on the arrival in Bamako of Guinean President Sekou Toure on 13 March -- recorded]

[Text] This visit is important because it testifies to our two countries' interest in strengthening fraternal relations. It also translates our common desire to contribute to the achievement of African unity and to world development. Mr President, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm to you the desire of the Malian people, its party and its Government to leave no stone unturned to further strengthen the long standing and inalienable ties that unite our two countries. This visit also will enable us, I am convinced, to give a new dimension to our cooperation which is based on solidarity, fraternity and friendship. The interdependence of our respective economies and the similarity in our interests are some of the factors that militate in favor of a more developed integration of the various sectors of our activities based on a flexible and efficient mechanism.

We also can express our satisfaction at our excellent relations within subregional and regional organizations, such as the Niger River Basin Development Authority and ECOWAS. Mr President, the efforts we have continued to make toward the development and the welfare of our respective peoples can only be conclusive when there is peace and understanding. Therefore, the numerous hot beds currently facing our continent and the destabilization maneuvers aimed at hampering our development need urgent and concerted action to achieve a peaceful settlement of interstate dispute. The solution to these problems is so very urgent because our states are facing a particularly difficult economic situation. Given our political desire and our spirit of fraternity, friendship and solidarity which has always marked our relations, I am convinced that our deliberations will yield positive results for the development of a dynamic and fruitful cooperation between our two countries. In any case, as you rightly said, Mr President, Guinea and Mali are two lungs in a single body. In other words, we are destined to live together, to cooperate, to develop and to prosper together. Our conviction, more than ever before, is that our two united peoples will only continue to achieve more victories for the welfare and the pride of our dear Africa. Thank you. [applause]

Sekou Toure Speech

AB141301 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0915 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Speech by Guinean President Sekou Toure in Bamako on 13 March on an official visit to Mali -- recorded]

[Text] My dear brother, Mr President of the Republic of Mali, dear brothers and leaders of the Democratic Union of Malian People and of the Government of the Republic of Mali: We must first of all thank you for the very fraternal, enthusiastic and popular welcome which you have accorded your Guinean brothers and the delegation I have the honor to lead. We understand the expression of confidence and esteem manifested through the welcome. We consider this a demonstration of the solidarity between Mali and Guinea. We are grateful to you for this and we can assure you of the unreserved availability of the Guinean people and Government for a sincere, fruitful and lasting cooperation between our two countries for the benefit of our two peoples.

Without [words indistinct] we say that Mali and Guinea are the same nation. The vicissitudes of our common history have not been able to uproot this reality from the (?conscience) and hearts of Guineans and Malians who are always one people. Before colonization, both countries were one united people. Before colonization, our common ancestors built their existence on authentic basis. Their structures and principles of life expressed their willingness to exist and to demonstrate their external influence. We can say that in the field of influence, Mali spread its influence well over several states. It did not experience any influence because of the solidity of its organization and the confidence and the willingness of its people. Mali was common to us and it remains [words indistinct].

Colonization came later and changed everything and introduced new factors. We must note the resistance shown by our people. If colonization creates conditions for dehumanization, exploitation and humiliation of the people it has subjugated, it will however be noted that in Guinea and Mali, colonization had left few footmarks. In other places, it has profoundly changed the existing structures; it has profoundly changed the people's mentality to the extent that these people today have more difficulties in returning to our African values. Mali and Guinea have resisted this tide of events.

It is true our pace of development lags behind and we are underdeveloped. It must be noted that our sociohuman, political and economic potentialities are very immense and able to guarantee a really independent development of Mali and Guinea [words indistinct] depending on the efforts of the two people. We can then say that the foremost reason justifying our common goal and political option is the fact that we both have a common past and common values. And if we are to assess the present, we have only to recall this past and adapt it with all its heritage to the imperative needs of the present. Historical reason also teaches us that Mali's vertical development was caused by external factors. Today Mali has achieved independence and sovereignty. We have to get rid of all that has been imposed on us and contradicts our own values. This is not a slogan, it is a duty. If we are to remain faithful to our ancestors, we must pick up the values set by them and continue to develop and to strengthen them.

We talk about African unity today. It is a noble, achievable and just aim. But we must not forget that within this overall framework, two countries that share several identities are Mali and Guinea. These two countries should be a beacon for the achievement of African unity. We have a common heritage. We can say the sincerity of Guinea and Mali toward the concept of African unity should be demonstrated through their common ties in the implementation of this unity. If we are unable to achieve this unity, then we will not be able to unite with other people and be integrated to them. We will not be able to work efficiently toward the realization of African unity. Therefore, it is an historical necessity for our two countries to unite. It is an imperative of the present and a guaranty for our common future. If a referendum were organized today, with both the Central Committees of the Democratic Union of Malian People and the Democratic Party of Guinea being opposed to the union between the two countries, the people of these two countries will prove to us that they are aware, absolutely aware, of the necessity of this unity. We would then lose the referendum, I am convinced. The problems will remain between the leaders. This is after we have examined, from various angles, the problems existing in Mali as well as in Guinea. Because we sometimes decide to analyze these problems superficially we end up achieving results that are far from the true aspirations of the Malian and Guinean peoples.

But, for their part, the two people are concretely living together. They solve their problems objectively. By the way, you will never hear that the Malian or Guinean Parliament has passed a law to begin appropriate steps to resolve amicably problems affecting villagers who live together.

To repeat, our duty is to serve the interests of the two peoples! No theory can benefit people. No ideology must have supremacy over the people's well-being. No policy is as useful as the one that effectively aspires to the people's well-being. If the similarity of the action engaged in by the Malian People's Democratic Union [UDPM] and that of the Guinean Democratic Party [PDG] envisages the realization of the well-being of the people and if our actions between [words indistinct] the objective being the well-being of the Guinean and Malian peoples. We must adapt ourselves to the end result of all activities aimed at the realization of the aspirations of the peoples of Mali and Guinea. Therefore, we should not waste too much of our peoples' time. The truth is they exist and they will continue to exist. We have only come recently to live on Guinean and Malian soil and we will pass when our time comes. But the Guinean and Malian people will always live.

If we want to be efficient, if we want to be useful in history, and if we also want to positively install the African line of evolution, let us then realize, and in the best objective and subjective conditions, let us by all means realize unity at whatever price.

I say without demagogy that we are ready and free. He said in our publication that our political conscience shows we prefer to be the last in a united Africa than to be the first in a divided Africa. And in our relations with Mali -- I want to repeat this to you once more -- that the running of all the institutions can only be useful when the unity of Guinea and Mali is realized. Only then will our well-being be increased. And if Guineans and Malians come together, a future is guaranteed. That is why we don't want only to repeat the watch word unity, but to ask that we engage ourselves in it. Man is fallible, we musn't look at his mistakes but at the line he follows. And if we sincerely engage ourselves in the path of the integration of the two countries, we surely will attain the social, human, political and economic dimension. And we will profit from this decision in Africa for the concrete achievement of African unity. And, it will enhance international unity. We say, therefore, that we should see our faults less and see our qualities more, especially when they are put together. Instead of thwarting you, they will help to project a stronger personality, an increased capacity necessary for dominating history. For our part, we are unreserved.

And the difficulties we will meet on our way will become factors of encouragement so that we can avoid making mistakes and so that the mutual engagement in the common path opens up on an unperishable element, political willingness, as you have just said, my very dear comrade president.

This political willingness will run through all our acts. In fact, what counts in all engagements is the objective that one wants to achieve. If the objective has a mobilizing character, then, due to its fairness, this objective requires all sorts of sacrifices, for example, nobility, reason, greatness of objective. We feel the objective is to make a viable entity out of Mali and Guinea. It is a noble and fair objective which can be defended everywhere and our people will surely be comforted. The first announcement of an [word indistinct] will be characterized and punctuated by sincere dances and sincere songs. I am sure we should not hesitate, even if the architects show some signs of insufficiency. Reunited, we can make up for these insufficiencies because we speak the truth to each other by treating each other as brothers, calling all hands on deck and doing the same work. At this time, my brother's depot becomes my depot and I will not try to analyze him because doing so will mean exposing myself and vice versa. We will not disturb anyone so that we also will not be disturbed. Some leaders prevent people from seeing the destiny of millions of people. As it is often said, the tree should not hide the forest. We are the tree and the Malian and Guinean people are the forest.

Therefore, for our part, we favor a decision which engages us in the dynamic path of the revival of the former Mali. And for our part, we need to find a decision giving immediate impetus to the present-day Malian and Guinean man and woman. And Africa itself will understand that this is the first example of the fusion of two states within the context of African unity, concretely based on several forms of identity of these countries.

The cause is just; all that we need is to act in consequence. And, during a trip to Bamako, we were able to sing the slogan "the car" according to which, a bad organization is better than no organization. I am very happy to observe that the UDFM is born. Democratically organized, its popular structures respond to the interests of the people, its principles and the methods adopted allow free expression of the wish of the people -- this is the framework of the organization enabling Mali to vigorously and rigorously express its wish in every direction and to methodically and vigorously organize itself and to act in freedom for an independent and democratic development. Therefore, there is organization in Mali as in Guinea. The structures established and put into the service of the two peoples must be used immediately for a profound mobilization of their men in the renovation action of the old Mali whose two lungs are present-day Mali and present-day Guinea. And this is true. If we engage ourselves in this historic event, people will find us ambitious and they will give us all the help necessary. We know that the bloodline is there and the objective noble; and we will not regret making sacrifices for the greatness of our people -- that means constancy in action will be needed. And since everyone knows how just it is, how can this initiative fail to achieve this goal? If we become constant and persevere in the action, we will modify the present reality and give it a new importance, making new conquests of solidarity and new and fertile resources. In the same way, we will exercise great influence on the evolution of Africa. We are not saying this out of chauvinism but we know that the cultural and political potentials of Mali and Guinea put together are the present heritage of the African Continent, which in former days was brilliant and which can be arranged to the advantage of all the men and women of Africa.

Integration is necessary. Our present resources are very limited. This has an effect on our economy and casts a slur on our drive for satisfaction, thus making us always cooperate with the outside world. This in turn makes us forget dialogue among ourselves and to exploit all the resources common to us and we forget to put together even our [word indistinct] for the benefit of realizing our objectives, even in the framework of an unpronounced people. We will continue to cooperate with the outside world.

The most essential point is to impose on ourselves the spirit of willingness and confidence, that is to say, to have mutual confidence in each other. This confidence will lead us to success; but let us always think of the idea that only God is supreme, that every man, whatever his quality, has his faults. Everyone makes his own mistakes. Henceforth, if we could undo our mistakes with regards to our community and eventually reinforce our qualities, our conscience will tell us to cooperate ceaselessly. And as time goes on, our great hopes will become realities of good luck and greatness for our people.

Once again, we say, thank you for the warm welcome accorded us, but we would be happier if Mali's readiness is as great as Guinea's for the realization of the true Mali which disappeared due to external phenomena and is a living reality in the minds of our people.

NIGERIAAIDES OF FORMER GHANAIAI PRESIDENT ASK ASYLUM

AB121500 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Lagos, Mar 12 (AFP) -- Two top executives of former Ghanaian President Hilla Limann's government are reported to be seeking political asylum in Nigeria.

The government-owned DAILY TIMES said today that Kwesi Bossman, former propaganda secretary of Mr Limann's party, and Kweku Osei Owusu, former party secretary for the Subim constituency in Ashanti, walked into its office yesterday looking "scared, haggard and unkempt." The men, who were said to have been sleeping under a flyover bridge since they arrived in Lagos on Tuesday, have appealed to President Shehu Shagari and Nigerians for help and support.

Describing their ordeal, they told the newspaper report [as received] said they had been arrest since they surrendered to the police on the appeal of Jerry Rawlings, the former flight lieutenant who toppled President Limann on New Year's Eve. The refugees said they had been tortured and questioned at an army camp before they managed to escape.

'SOCIALIST PARTY' APPLIES FOR REGISTRATION

AB141339 Lagos NAN in English 1319 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Lagos, 14 March (NAN) -- The leader of a new political association, the "new Nigerian Socialist Party" Mr Samuel Adekoya Oshisanya, said in Lagos yesterday that his association was in a better position to solve Nigeria's "ailments" because it would guarantee the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people.

Mr Oshinsanya told a news conference that the association was formed to cure, "with absolute finality" the ills of the society, to propagate the socialist ideology and to execute and develop the country's agriculture, education, transport and posts and telecommunications.

He said that the association had already applied to the Federal Electoral Commission for registration and that the association did not represent mere welfareism, but was one which would ensure that "the state ultimately controls that means of production and distribution". He said that his association planned to wipe out bribery and corruption, adding that indiscipline and inefficiency in the country had their origin from these vices.

Mr Oshisanya regretted that 21 years after independence, lunatics were still allowed to roam the streets. He suggested the introduction of compulsory religious studies in schools, pointing out that education without religion would lead to moral bankruptcy and public unrest.

Mr Oshisanya claimed that none of the existing political parties had the eradication of corruption in its programme and said that the association would save the nation from "pending doom".

The association's vice-chairman, Prince Abdul Danjuma, said that the party had established offices in 13 states of the federation. He said that the association now had more than 50,000 registered members and hoped to capture 15 states.

FOUR POLITICAL PARTIES FORM ALLIANCE

AB131006 Lagos NAN in English 0955 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Maiduguri, 13 March (NAN) -- The UPN [Unity Party of Nigeria], NPP [Nigerian People's Party], PRP [People's Redemption Party], and GNPP [Great Nigeria People's Party] yesterday merged to form the Progressive Parties Alliance (PPA) after a three-day summit.

In a communique read by the UPN leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, the parties said that the decision to "come together, stay together and move forward had received the overwhelming support of millions of Nigerians."

The communique was jointly signed by Chief Obafemi Awolowo for the UPN, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe for the NPP, Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim for the GNPP and Alhaji Rimi for the Imoudo faction of the PRP.

Twelve state governors of the parties involved in the alliance also attended the meeting.

According to the communique the summit deliberated on the report of a committee of 40, set up earlier to recommend the form of the association that the four parties would adopt and that after exclusive discussion the summit decided that the ideal form of association "the merger of all the parties."

The governing council of the alliance, would be the summit comprising the four party leaders, the chairman of the NPP and the 12 governors, the communique added.

Earlier the party leaders and governors had paid a courtesy call on Sir Kashim Ibrahim, the first Nigerian governor of the former Northern Region whom they described as "elder states-man."

SENEGALENTRY REFUSED TO SDAR INFORMATION DELEGATION

AB150949 Paris AFP in French 0710 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Dakar, 15 Mar (AFP) -- A SDAR delegation headed by Information Minister Mohamed Salem Ould Saleck yesterday was refused entry to Dakar to attend an African information ministers' conference organized by the OAU.

The SDAR delegation arrived in Dakar on two different flights -- one from Algiers with three members aboard and the other from Abidjan carrying Ould Saleck. All members of the delegation carried Algerian passports. As they arrived, with a 1-hour interval between flights, the SDAR delegates were detained at the airport as they went through police formalities. They were then led back on board the plane returning to Algiers.

It will be recalled that the Senegalese Government condemned the decision last month by the OAU secretary general to admit the SDAR to the OAU ministerial council and also stated that it considered all the decisions made at this conference as null and void. The Senegalese authorities then made it known that they would not allow the SDAR to participate in any conference organized in Senegal. They also said they would consider any SDAR delegation's coming to Senegal as an act of force.

At present, the consequences of the Senegalese refusal to admit the SDAR to the information ministers' conference are unknown. The conference has on its agenda information and communications problems in Africa, the establishment and the functioning of the pan-African information agency and Africa-Arab cooperation in information, as well as the commemoration of the OAU's 20th anniversary.

UPPER VOLTAGUINEA'S TOURE COMMENTS ON ARRIVAL 11 MAR

AB111932 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] The head of state of Guinea and his wife arrived here about 3 hours ago. The Guinean president is accompanied by a high-ranking delegation. Col and Mrs Saye Zerbo were on hand to welcome their illustrious guest. Also present were members of the Steering Committee of the Military Committee of Redress for National Progress and members of the government as well as highest state officials, not to mention a big cheering crowd including a large delegation of the Guinean community in our country.

After receiving a bouquet of flowers and inspecting the honor guard, President Ahmed Sekou Toure shook hands with the officials and ordinary citizens who lined the runway, including children in their mothers' arms, then proceeded to the VIP lounge and granted an interview to the press. After a welcome statement by Pierre Bali, secretary general of information, the Guinean president said:

[Begin recording] It is a real pleasure for us to be with our brother, Col Saye Zerbo, and among his people, the Upper Voltan people. We appreciate contacts with all people particularly those who have the heavy and delicate responsibility of steering the destiny of their people. We know that such contacts are necessary because they permit communication which also helps to develop perfect knowledge of similarities and divergences of views. If men must show mutual respect for one another in their relations, they must first have a definite awareness of their similarities and their differences. Our cooperation with Upper Volta is dictated by our continent's history in which we take part as subjects. Our cooperation also should serve as a means of strengthening African unity and of implementing, under the best possible conditions, the profound and legitimate aspirations of our people. We have come here for a working visit with a feeling of brotherhood which we want to transmit on behalf of the people of Guinea and in the context of the trust we place in the Upper Voltan Government and people.

In brief, we have come to consolidate the foundations of Guinean-Upper Voltan cooperation. We are very grateful to our brother, the head of state of Upper Volta, who was kind enough to invite us to meet him, his government and his people. We hope this rather brief visit on the soil of your glorious people will help cement the ties of friendship, mutual trust and solidarity between Upper Volta and Guinea.

We further hope that this meeting will also be a step toward accelerating the development of the African Continent. We say: We are Africans and Africa lags behind the other continents. In a nutshell, we must consider ourselves responsible for our people's march toward progress. In other words, it is the responsibility of us all to apply the OAU programs and the programs of all the subregional and regional organizations whose ultimate goal is the rehabilitation of our common motherland, our African motherland. We wish the Upper Voltan people continued prosperity in stability and peace; we wish their government effectiveness in its action and we wish the head of state good health and the possibility of realizing the profound aspirations of the Upper Voltan people to his credit.

We are happy to be in Upper Volta and we extend to the people once again, the brotherly greetings of the militant people of Guinea.

[Question] Mr President, the national press is eager to ask you a few questions before the press conference you are expected to give prior to your departure.

[Answer] Thank you, you may go ahead.

[Question] Mr President, you have come to Upper Volta when the OAU seems to be heading toward disintegration because of the Western Sahara issue. Mr President, are you worried about this?

[Answer] We are aware that a war is going on in Western Sahara. We will not define the respective stands on this dispute. We simply will confine ourselves to the African philosophy by saying that although governments were always divided at all the sessions on the Saharan question, in 1979, the 17th summit in Freetown decided that the question of the admission of the SDAR should be removed from the summit's agenda and that an ad hoc committee, which was finally known as the implementation committee, should be set up to deal specifically with the negotiations between the parties involved in order to find a peaceful solution to the question of the Sahara. But this solution was to be reached through two major objectives which we all consider effective: first, a cease-fire to preserve the lives of our sisters and brothers and to protect their property and, secondly, the organization of a referendum. Everybody is speaking on behalf of the people; the people must be allowed to speak for themselves. The referendum, therefore, would permit the Saharan people to either opt to become independent or to remain attached to Morocco. Saharan citizens should therefore be allowed to make their opinion known and this had already been decided by the implementation committee on the Sahara.

At that point, we feel, the OAU took the right approach by respecting the free self-determination of the Saharan people and by inviting both Morocco and the Polisario to abide by this program. But, as we know, the SDAR calls itself an Arab Republic. Why therefore did it not ask to become a member of the Arab League? Why continue to divide Africa, particularly black Africa? For what reason? We must ask ourselves this question. And since the decision was made that a referendum would be held, why shouldn't the citizens of the Sahara be trusted to determine their own preference? Therefore, the problem of admission became insignificant and as we said, in Freetown, the question of the admission was withdrawn from the agenda as well as the question of legal procedure raised by Morocco. The reason is simple. At the 18th session held in Nairobi, nobody spoke of the admission of the SDAR. Furthermore, at the implementation committee's session held in August, there was no question of SDAR admission. At the last session held again in Nairobi and attended by all parties involved and concerned, there were no demands for admission of the SDAR. Hence, morally speaking, even if the council of ministers were composed of saints or angels, the summit is the supreme representative of the will of our governments. Since the Freetown summit removed the item from the agenda and another summit was held subsequently and did not reopen the issue, how can a council of ministers abrogate to itself the right to include in the agenda an item on which the heads of state have already given their ruling. It is illegal. Whatever the reasons or motives of those who placed this question on the agenda and admitted the SDAR as a member of the OAU, it is illegal. This is what we have observed and we say we are not worried. Without being a lawyer, anyone of good faith will realize that the council of ministers does not have more power than the summit conference of our organization. This is why we say that we have suspended our OAU activities and, to ensure its smooth functioning, the OAU will be compelled to convene a special meeting or to state, through its office, that all the decisions made in Addis Ababa recently cannot be binding on our organization. Since either action will end the crisis, the OAU will thus be able to function on a legal and legitimate basis while respecting its own charter.

[Question] Mr President, referring to your visit here, originally scheduled for 1 then 10 March, only today have you come to Upper Volta. Can you give us the reasons for these postponements.

[Answer] Well, if we had our own way, we would visit the Upper Voltan people everyday. We have full confidence in you, our friendship is sincere and our desire for cooperation is very well known. It is the circumstances, that is, our work program, that changed our arrival dates on two occasions. We are happy to be with you today and would like you to consider this day as 1 March, the day on which we were initially expected here. [end recording]

Communique on Visit

AB130658 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Joint communique issued in Ouagadougou on 12 March at the end of Guinean President Sekou Toure's 11-12 March visit -- read by Acting Foreign Minister Faustin Sib Sie]

[Text] His Excellency Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, made a friendly, working visit to the Republic of Upper Volta on 11 and 12 March 1982. During their working sessions, attended by members of their delegations, and during their private talks, Presidents Saye Zerbo and Sekou Toure thoroughly examined all issues of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. After expressing their satisfaction over the excellent cooperation, the two leaders promised to develop and strengthen the existing relations based on brotherhood and equality.

In this regard, they have decided to set up a grand joint commission with a view to promoting vast economic and technical cooperation between their two countries. The commission will meet once a year in Guinea and in Upper Volta alternately. It is to draw up a general framework for economic and technical cooperation as soon as possible. It will be gradually completed by other agreements, particularly regarding textiles. Before the joint commission is set up, the two delegations agreed to attempt to realize all trade possibilities as soon as possible. More specifically, both Transport Ministries will coordinate in an effort to establish direct air links between the two countries in order to sign an agreement on air transport as soon as possible.

With regard to the cultural agreement signed in July 1975, the two delegations promised to implement all clauses of the agreement through concrete actions to be carried out in the two countries.

After examining the situation in the subregion, they expressed their satisfaction over the close cooperation within the regional and subregional organizations in which they are members, particularly within ECOWAS and the Niger Basin Authority. They stressed the pressing need for the states in the subregion to devote all their energies to the struggle against underdevelopment while (?checking) all diversion and actions likely to jeopardize peace and security in the region.

On the African front, both heads of state reiterated their firm adherence to the ideals and principles of the OAU Charter and they expressed their concern over the current crisis within the organization.

With regard to the situation in the Western Sahara, they reaffirmed their faith in the efforts made by the OAU ad hoc committee on Western Sahara and in the OAU resolution on the Western Sahara. They expressed their strong belief that only a free, regular and general referendum exercising self-determination under OAU and UN auspices will make it possible to establish a just and lasting peace in the region.

After examining the situation in Chad, the two heads of state expressed hope that the Transitional National Union Government of Chad will cooperate with the OAU to find a solution ensuring territorial integrity and national unity in that country.

With regard to southern Africa, both heads of state reiterated their strong condemnation of the racist minority regime in South Africa. They reaffirmed their full support of the struggle of the Namibian people who are seeking their independence and sovereignty under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, SWAPO. They also reiterated their firm support to the frontline countries, particularly Mozambique and Angola, which have repeatedly sustained South Africa's aggression.

With regard to the Middle East, the two heads of state reiterated their belief that any lasting solution to the crisis in that region will be achieved through the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people under the PLO to live in an independent fatherland.

The two leaders reaffirmed their attachment to the principles of nonalignment and to the cause of the developing nations with regard to achieving a more equitable world economic order.

As a general rule, they agreed to hold periodic consultations and to harmonize their views within the organizations in which they are members.

At the end of his visit to the Republic of Upper Volta, President Ahmed Sekou Toure extended his wholehearted thanks to his brother and friend, President Saye Zerbo, to the Military Committee of Redress for National Progress [CMRPN] and to the Upper Voltan Government and people for the African hospitality accorded him and the members of his delegation during their visit.

Present at the talks on the Guinean side were: His Excellency Damantang Camara, member of the National Political Bureau and speaker of the People's National Assembly; His Excellency Abdoulaye Toure, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; His Excellency El Hadj Moussa Diakite, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of housing; His Excellency (?Mamouro) Toure, member of the Central Committee and minister of finance; His Excellency Boubacar Diallo, minister of economic and financial affairs; His Excellency Kouramodou Doumbouya, member of the Central Committee and Guinea's ambassador to Upper Volta; His Excellency Dakoury Diarra, member of the Central Committee and mayor of Conakry; Sekou Camara, engineer and senior official in the Ministry of Transport; and His Excellency Ambassador Daouda (Akerety), chief of presidential protocol.

On the Upper Voltan side were: His Excellency Faustin Sib Sie, minister of higher education and scientific research and acting minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; His Excellency Mamadou Sanfo, minister of economy and planning; His Excellency George Moussa Boni, minister of youth and sports; His Excellency Edmond Ky, minister of finance; His Excellency Albert Patoin Ouedraogo, minister of education and culture; His Excellency Thomas (Balbara), secretary of state in the presidency in charge of information; His Excellency Ambassador Joseph Compaore, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and cooperation; His Excellency Louis Dominique Ouedraogo, director of bilateral co-operation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; and Mr (Walla Sepsebo), permanent secretary in the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Town Planning.

Issued in Ouagadougou on 12 March 1982.

[Signed] For the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea by Ahmed Sekou Toure and for the Republic of Upper Volta by Col Saye Zerbo, chairman of the CMRPN and head of state.

ANGOLA'WAR EQUIPMENT' ON DISPLAY IN BIE PROVINCE

EAL31556 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0900 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] An exhibition of various kinds of war equipment captured from the enemy forces by the troops of the Peoples Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola is being held in Quito, capital of Bie Province.

Speaking at the opening of the show, Col Joao Luis Chieto, member of the Political Bureau and commander of the armed forces, once again condemned the repeated attacks by the South African Army on the PRA.

DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR USSR TU CONGRESS

EAL21400 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] The UNITA [National Union of Angolan Workers] secretary general, Comrade Pascual Luvualu, who is a member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party, left for Moscow the day before yesterday.

In Moscow he will attend the 17th Soviet Trade Union Congress, which will be held from 16 to 20 March. Comrade Pascual Luvualu is leading an Angolan delegation which will express the Angolan workers' solidarity with the Soviet people.

SOUTH AFRICABOTHA WANTS TO DEVELOP 'COOPERATIVE DEMOCRACY'

LD121404 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says his government believes it is possible for the various national groups in the country to work as equals, corresponsable for communal affairs. Speaking at the official opening of the third Legislative Assembly of the Gazankulu National State, Mr Botha said his government rejected the system of one man-one vote in a unitary system. It wanted to move away from the Westminster system to develop the conception of cooperative democracy. Mr Botha said his government proposed a confederal concept of cooperation between South Africa and the countries with which South Africa wanted to cooperate. In this confederation each independent state involved would maintain its sovereignty and would have the right to withdraw from cooperative projects. Each state would have equal status so that none would have the status to dominate another. Mr Botha said his government had bound itself to a policy of consultation and continuous dialogue. It was striving for a spirit of mutual trust and cooperation among the various national groups because this would be in the best interests of South Africa.

The chief minister of Gazankulu, Prof Hudson Ntsanwisi, replying to Mr Botha, said a confederation would not solve the political problems in South Africa. A political dispensation was needed in which all the national groups had equal dictate without domination of minority groups. He did not believe the Gazankulu could have equal status with South Africa in any confederation. Prof Ntsanwisi regretted that blacks in South Africa had not been invited to join the president's council.

BOTHA COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT GOALS, PARTY SPLIT

LD142210 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says he is advancing a southern Africa which will not subscribe to communism but can take its place in the free world, particularly against the background of the subcontinent's strategic importance and the value of its mineral wealth to the free world. Speaking in a radio and television interview, Mr Botha set out a number of principles on which he was leading the government towards a constitutional dispensation for all the population groups. Among them were fair treatment for all population groups and peoples in southern Africa and the striving for economic progress and stability, without which, Mr Botha said, there was no hope of a secure South Africa. These principles had to be the guarantee for the preservation of civilized values and standards in southern Africa. For this, the government would keep fighting and to this it would remain true.

Referring to the recent split in the ruling National Party, Mr Botha said that the split would make no difference to the pace at which he acted because the people who had left the party had never been an obstacle to him. He said he uttered [as heard] in the light of the threats against South Africa, of the population, economic and other realities with which he had to deal.

ZIMBABWESTRIKING BUS DRIVERS DISMISSED, MAY BE REHIRED

CA111648 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Excerpt] All striking drivers of Salisbury, Bulawayo, Gwelo and Umtali have been dismissed from their jobs with immediate effect. A joint statement issued by the management of the Salisbury United and Zimbabwe Omnibus Services said the action has been taken with the consultation and approval of the minister of labor and social services, Comrade Kangai. It said the companies are now inviting applications for employment for all those who hold a class one drivers' licence, and applications from those who have been dismissed will be considered.

During the day police made a number of arrests in the four towns that have been affected by the strike. About 300 people were (?picked up) in Bulawayo, 200 in Salisbury and 100 in Gwelo.

BRIEFS

Bubonic Plague Report -- The superintendent of a hospital in the South African city of Port Elizabeth, Dr (Dock), has disclosed that three confirmed cases of bubonic plague and three suspected cases have been admitted to the hospital. Nine other people are there for observation. A 32-year-old man has died of the disease which is transmitted by fleas found on rodents. The victim was a resident of a missionary settlement near Kuga, about 32 km from Port Elizabeth. Members of the South African defense force are to assist in efforts to ensure that the quarantine of the settlement is strictly observed. The area is expected to be kept under quarantine for about 10 days. [Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 14 Mar 82 LD]